

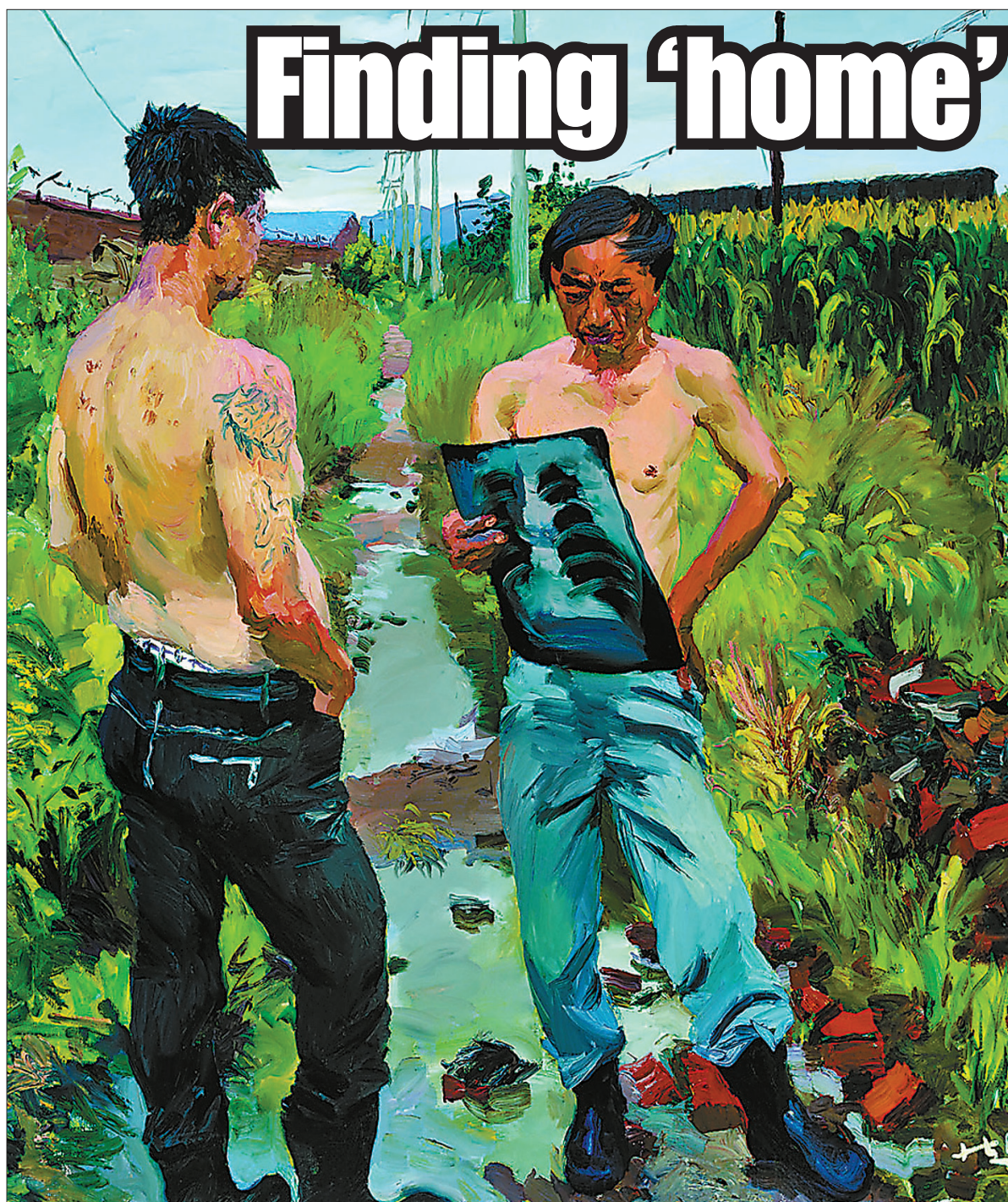
Page 7 No love for the winners?

A medal sweep at the Asian Games has some columnists calling on officials to pull out the pros and promote competition.



Page 8 Security experts train Chinese

Israeli security specialists say China's newfound fortune could make it an attractive target for enterprising terrorists.



Liu Xiaodong

After 30 years in the capital, Liu Xiaodong is learning that his hometown is not what he remembers.

For his latest exhibition, the country's premiere painter returned to paint his family and former friends as they live today.

The jobs may be gone and the village's face has changed, but Liu says his emotional bonds remain as strong as ever.

His new collection will be on exhibit at the Ullens Center for Contemporary Art in 798 Art Zone until February 20.

Read more on
Pages 12-13

Domestic
animators up
for an Oscar

Page 4

Porcelain
craze showy
or patriotic?

Page 5

Shoppers
unite to fight
inflation

Page 6

Drummers
love Africa's
djembe

Page 15

City's high-rises impossible for firefighters to defend

By Chu Meng

The capital's 58 super high-rise buildings, those more than 100 meters high or more than 30 stories, are a lost cause for local firefighters.

Zhao Zixin, director of the Beijing Fire Control Bureau, said Monday that these buildings cannot be reached by aerial ladder, helicopter or any other core firefighting tool.

The chance of fighting fires in these buildings depends entirely on the development of new firefighting tools, he said.

The Beijing Municipal Science and Technology Commission plans to invest 10 million yuan over the next three years to find a way to fight fires in these new structures.

The urgent need for a firefighting strategy came to prominence after the Shanghai Jingan high-rise fire that left scores dead in the central metropolis.

Beijing responded to the disaster by dispatching specialists to inspect the city's high-rise buildings for fire preparedness: the results were far from satisfactory.

"Fire control techniques are developing at a much slower pace than these modern constructions. Beijing has more super high-rise buildings than any other city in China, and these bring with them a host of new security concerns," Zhao said.

For buildings such as the World Trade Center Tower 3 and the new CCTV tower, the only methods of exterior rescue are



Buildings such as the World Trade Center Tower 3 are impossible to protect with conventional firefighting equipment.

CFP Photo

aerial ladders and helicopters.

But current aerial ladders can only reach a height of 90 meters under ideal weather conditions and with sufficient space between the buildings.

"The burning of the (hotel beside the) CCTV tower during the 2009 Spring Festival revealed remarkable weaknesses in our preparedness," he said.

The top task for the project is to design new aerial ladders that could reach as high as 500 meters when operating at full power.

The second task is to study and research new helicopter

rescue methods.

"There were three helicopters used during the Shanghai fire, but these all failed due to weather problems present near the top of the high-rise buildings," said Yuan Hongyong, vice director of the Public Security Research Center at Tsinghua University.

He said helicopters were the best option for rooftop rescue, but that restrictions on low-altitude flights in Beijing prevent firefighting aircrafts from taking off during an emergency. "The government needs to pass new laws that would waive aviation

restrictions for emergency aircraft," Yuan said.

Yuan also suggested borrowing the RFID chip system used in Olympics Tickets. One of the greatest challenges for firemen is to know how many people are in a building. If door cards were improved to use RFID technology, it would be possible to have an exact count of persons inside, he said.

"If people were carrying their cards, we would be able to see the positions of all cardholders in the building and their escape routes," he said.

Residents may face fines for mixed garbage

By Han Manman

Beijing residents may soon be fined for dumping their trash without sorting it, according to draft regulations made public by the local government this week.

The draft is the latest move by the government to push public awareness of the need to sort waste. Published by the legal affairs office of the local government, it will be open for public comment until December 17.

Individuals who do not sort their trash into separate receptacles could be fined between 20 and 200 yuan. Corporate offenders would face fines of 5,000 to 50,000 yuan.

The regulations also specify different sorting methods for different areas. Residential and catering sites would be given three bins to sort recyclable materials, kitchen waste and other waste: offices and public locations would sort more simply into recyclable or non-recyclable waste.

China produces more than 152 million tons of garbage every year, increasing 8 to 10 percent annually, according to a report by the Beijing-based China Science Center of the International Eurasian Academy of Sciences.

The rapid growth in the urban



Local residents may face fines if they dump their trash without sorting it.

CFP Photo

population has made treatment of household garbage a headache for city administrators.

In addition to sorting efforts,

the city plans to open 300 community recycling stations by the end of the year to encourage people to recycle near their homes.

Currently, few people respect the recycling signs, preferring to fill the non-recyclable bins with paper and fruit peels and the recyclable bins with leftover food.

"I'm willing to sort my garbage, but I'm still confused about what trash can be recycled and what can't be," Zhu Yujie, a local resident said. "It's unfair to fine people for ignorance."

"I think the government should put more effort into educating the people about how to reuse urban trash and how to sort garbage before it starts to fine us," Zhu said.

He said the government should create a garbage sorting education campaign that could be broadcast on TV as advertisements.

"The government should be thinking about where its own education efforts have fallen short," Wang Zheng, another resident, said.

Wang said he saw some garbage trucks mixing together all the sorted waste when emptying the bins in his community.

"It would not make any difference whether we sorted it or not," he said.

He said that while educating residents about the need to recycle is important, it is equally important for the government to invest in garbage trucks capable of handling a recycled load.

Civil services sent overseas for experience

By Liang Meilan

The Dongcheng District Government published its first 20-year talent development strategy on Monday.

The district plans to send its best officials and civil services to temporary posts in developed countries in groups for training. It plans to invest 50 million yuan in the program each year.

Planners said they intend for a fifth of all district officials to have overseas experience by 2030.

Being sent for training abroad is nothing new for officials. Dongcheng District has been sending civil servants to Singapore, the US and Australia for many years. Temporary posting overseas are another matter.

"To turn Beijing into a World City, our officials and promising civil services need to broaden their horizons. Working in a foreign country is the most effective way to learn usable foreign practices that can be applied to domestic affairs," said Wu Songyuan, official of Dongcheng Department of Organization.

Wu said that the next destination for "official work overseas" is the US. "We are now actively coordinating to send out people from the science and technology, city planning and management departments for up to one year," he said.

Some governmental officials have been working on exchange in Seoul since 2003, mainly in the Chongro District government.

"As of 2009, three of our officials have had six months of experience working in city administration in Chongro," said Chen Dapeng, director of the Dongcheng Foreign Affairs Office.

This year the office is sending two people to Chongro for the next year.

The news has worried many who fear the experience may turn into an excuse for cronyism and corruption in Beijing's district governments.

Chen Xiaoe, a senior commentator at ifeng.com, said many of the officials go for travel and promotion and never learn anything useful. He warned that it may become a channel for young people to grab political capital for future promotions.

"If people start seeing this as a good opportunity to travel and shop in a foreign country, this will be a disaster," he said.

The 20-year talent development strategy plan is also intended to break boundaries between government departments, state-owned companies and sub-districts.

"Talents will be exchanged in large numbers to help them experience various working conditions," planners said.

Census prompts spike in demand for DNA paternity tests

By Zhao Hongyi

DNA paternity tests are on the rise, worrying many about a deterioration of faith and sincerity in the family unit.

During the 5th population census conducted between November 1 and 10, there were two to three times as many DNA tests conducted as in previous years.

As DNA laboratory technology becomes more sophisticated and affordable, the technology is becoming more and more popular. Parents can easily identify whether or not the kids they are raising are actually their own children.

In most cases, fathers who are suspicious of infidelity are the ones requesting the test. Basic paternity tests can cost as little as 2,000 yuan.

In Beijing, the Center of Forensic Sciences under Beijing Genomics Institute is one of the most popular centers. The center is licensed by the Ministry of Justice and has persuasive authority.

The number of tests requested at the center has grown 10 to 20 percent each year, said Deng Yajun, director of the center. The center receives applications from around the country, and has conducted more than 2,000 tests

each year since 2008.

"Most of the families who come to us are those with more than one kid," the director said. "In most cases, fathers are the applicants as the mothers are usually clear of the relationship."

"One father who brought in his 8-year-old son, asked us to determine whether the boy had any genetic relationship with him. The results showed the boy could not possibly be his child," the director said.

The results have started a lot of family quarrels among parents who emphasize the need for a genetic relationship between family members.

In Shanghai, 20 to 30 percent of paternity tests reveal that the man cannot be the father of the child. In Yangzhou, Jiangsu Province, the figure is 40 percent. In Guangzhou, Guangdong Province, the figure is a staggering 80 percent.

The sudden spike in testing requests during the census caught the attention of media outlets in Beijing, Guangzhou, Shanghai and Chongqing.

Some scholars have called for a limiting of DNA testing availability to ensure familial stability. Many would prefer DNA tests to be the exclusive domain of the



Commercial DNA paternity tests reflect a deep problem with sincerity in the family.

CFP Photo

justice department.

"The availability of these tests breeds suspicion and doubt in families," Ma Yinan, a law professor at Beijing University, said. "The situation explodes when the results come back negative."

But Deng said the commercialization of testing is inevitable. "What we need to change is our way of thinking. Everyone needs to adapt to the fact that this is part of being a developed and progressive society," she said.

Talent show star killed in plastic surgery mishap

A 24-year-old female singer died early last week while receiving plastic surgery in Hubei Province, local authorities confirmed Wednesday, as postings about her death drew extensive attention online.

Wang Bei, once a contestant on the popular talent show Super Girl, died November 15 while under anesthesia, said a spokesman for the health bureau of Jiang'an District, Wuhan City.

Before the announcement, rumors about Wang's death spread quickly on the Internet. Many of Wang's fans, who believed she was actually still alive, said the news was malicious while others suspected Wang deliberately spread the news to attract attention.

Wang's mother, who underwent the same procedure to narrow her lower jaw, is currently recovering in Zhong'ao Cosmetic Surgery Hospital.

Zhong'ao Cosmetic Surgery Hospital is a legal medical facility administered by the health bureau of Jiang'an District, said a spokesman that declined to give his name.

Wang's death renewed concerns about the safety of plastic surgery in China. "I wonder who would dare to get plastic surgery after hearing about this tragedy," Internet user Ye Xiaolun said.



Wang Bei

Photo provided by 51wan.com

"I hope the tragedy can raise people's awareness of the lack of supervision in the plastic surgery industry," said another user, Pu Jing.

As demand for plastic surgery surges, some doctors untrained in

the field have started to perform plastic surgery for extra pay.

Zhang Huabin, a professor of plastic surgery with Guangdong Medical College, called their actions "risky and irresponsible."

(Xinhua)

Sex ed curriculum offered by more local schools

By Wang Yu

After a two-year trial run in 30 select schools, a second round of sex education classes is being expanded to more local schools.

There are 45 local primary and high schools volunteering to add the curriculum to their studies.

The courses were designed by the Sex Education Center of the Capital Normal University.

Zhang Meimei, director of the center, said the syllabus was made for students of different ages and the first round tests used 10 primary schools and 20 high schools.

For the second round of tests, the project team has modified the lessons based on feedback from students and teachers.

Students between the ages of 7 and 18 can progress through the lessons in different steps. The new syllabus offers more than sex physiology education: it includes lessons aimed at helping young students with relationship issues, Zhang said.

Primary school lessons teach the body structures of the two genders and self-protection. In junior high, relationship issues between boys and girls are the main theme. High schools lessons focus on love and family issues.

Sex education is a perennial problem for the education system. Though most students are aware of the importance of such lessons, they have been absent from the curriculum for years. NGOs were previously involved in similar projects, but most collapsed without

government backing.

Zhang said that according to research, most parents of primary school students accept sex education easier than parents of high school students. The curriculum includes lessons for parents on how to guide their children in sex-related issues.

"I think sex education is essential and should be promoted in more schools. It used to be a shame to talk about sex or relationships when we were students. Teachers or parents were not willing to discuss it either," said Danny He, a 25-year-old doctoral student.

"What ended up happening was that illegal pornography became the only way for boys and girls to learn about the other sex. That was pretty sad," He said.

However, the new curriculum is still absent from most schools. In the meantime, teachers have to create their own lessons on such topics.

"Besides sex issues, we also discuss other topics like the virgin complex and how to protect ourselves from sexual harassment. Most of us like these lessons," said a female high school student who would not give her name.

Yan Xiaodong, director of moral education at Zhongzhimen Middle School, said that without lessons on morality and values, sex education is incomplete. Teaching the right attitudes toward love and responsibility is a crucial component of sex education, he said.

Animated Oscar contender inspires domestic animators

By Zhao Hongyi

A decade ago, the government tapped the culture industry to become a pillar of Chinese industry. The past 10 years have seen incredible progress – especially in animation.

The Dreams of Jinsha, the domestic animated masterpiece that wowed foreign audiences at Cannes, was tabbed by the Oscar Award Committee as a contender for the best animated picture.

The news was a much needed positive sign for an industry that has been limping along.

The money behind the culture boom is eager to cash in on China's film potential. But analysts warn that China's studios are only just learning how to play the game. As the meager box office returns on *The Dreams of Jinsha* showed, it might be wise to master the domestic film market before trying to tackle Hollywood.



The *Dreams of Jinsha* tells the story of Xiao Long, a boy who travels 3,500 years back to the Jinsha Kingdom to defend it against dark forces.

For the Oscars

The Dreams of Jinsha, a domestic animated film that flopped in China, was accepted by the Oscar Award Committee as a candidate for the prestigious award this Monday.

The news brought a ray of hope to an ailing Chinese animation industry that is trying desperately to find repute on the world stage.

The Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences in Los Angeles announced its listing of *The Dreams of Jinsha* alongside *Toy Story 3*, *Shrek Forever After* and *How to Train Your Dragon* – three animated films by Dream Works Animation.

The film is about a selfish boy named Xiao Long who travels 3,500 years back to the Jinsha Kingdom. Together with Princess Jin Sha and an elf he guards the kingdom against dark forces. The film took five years to complete and was first screened at the Cannes Film Festival.

At Cannes, the film attracted foreign animation artists who marveled at the hand-painted backdrops and encouraged the team to submit their film for Oscar consideration.

A total of 15 films were accepted for consideration in the Animated Feature Film category for the 83rd Academy Awards earlier this month. The annual nominations will be announced live on January 25, and the award ceremony will be broadcast February 27 at the Kodak Theater in Los Angeles.

Hard work, but worth it

Prosperity Dragon Animation Works, the animation base located in Hangzhou, Zhejiang Province, declared the film an amazing success. The studio was established in 2007, but already has numerous credits.

"It took us five years to produce the film and more than 600 professionals participated in the production," Su said. "Most importantly, the whole film was hand-painted on paper first and edited."

"The theme and story of the film are great," said Liu Shusen, deputy general manager of Huaxia Film Distribution. "It is a real achievement in art and design."

But the film flopped at home. The film, produced on an 80-million-yuan budget, was distributed to domestic movie theaters last July: it grossed only 1 million yuan at the box office.

In only 10 days, every movie theater in the country had dropped the film from its roster.

Liu blamed the flop on the studio's decision to focus on content and storytelling rather than marketable made-for-trailer moments.

"We did not invite big entertainment stars to promote it, nor did we use the latest and greatest technology or slap a bunch of buzz words on the advertisements," Liu said.

But netizens complained that the animated film lacked rich characters and the story was weak.



Poster for the animated film *The Dreams of Jinsha* CFP Photos

Animation and culture encouraged

The domestic animation industry's story is a one of struggle even as the government hurls all its money and muscle into developing creative industries.

In 2000, a number of ani-

mation bases opened across the country. They were granted favorable loans, a huge credit line and ample private capital. On the surface, the plan worked and the industry began producing numerous animated films.

Most studios turned to legends and historical stories for

inspiration, much like their Hollywood peers behind US-made animated hits like *Mulan* and *Kung Fu Panda*.

"These success stories show the marketability of Chinese history and culture. We need to produce our own cultural film products," said Jin Yongyi, a professor from Renmin University of China.

The cultural expos held throughout the provinces earlier this month were intended to be a platform to show off new intellectual properties, designs and innovations. Beijing's alone generated business revenue of 47.8 billion yuan, half of which was due to original creations.

As part of its 12th Five-year Plan, the government emphasizes new pillar industries rooted in creativity and green technology.

The support has encouraged many small film houses to rush for a position on the world stage. Earlier this month, a number of Chinese film companies expressed interest in purchasing shares of the restructured MGM Studios after it comes out of bankruptcy.

But analysts cautioned the newfound enthusiasm for an industry that could easily become a money drain. They encouraged domestic studios to strengthen their own lineups and come up with a successful product before jumping into the fiercely competitive cinema pool of the West.

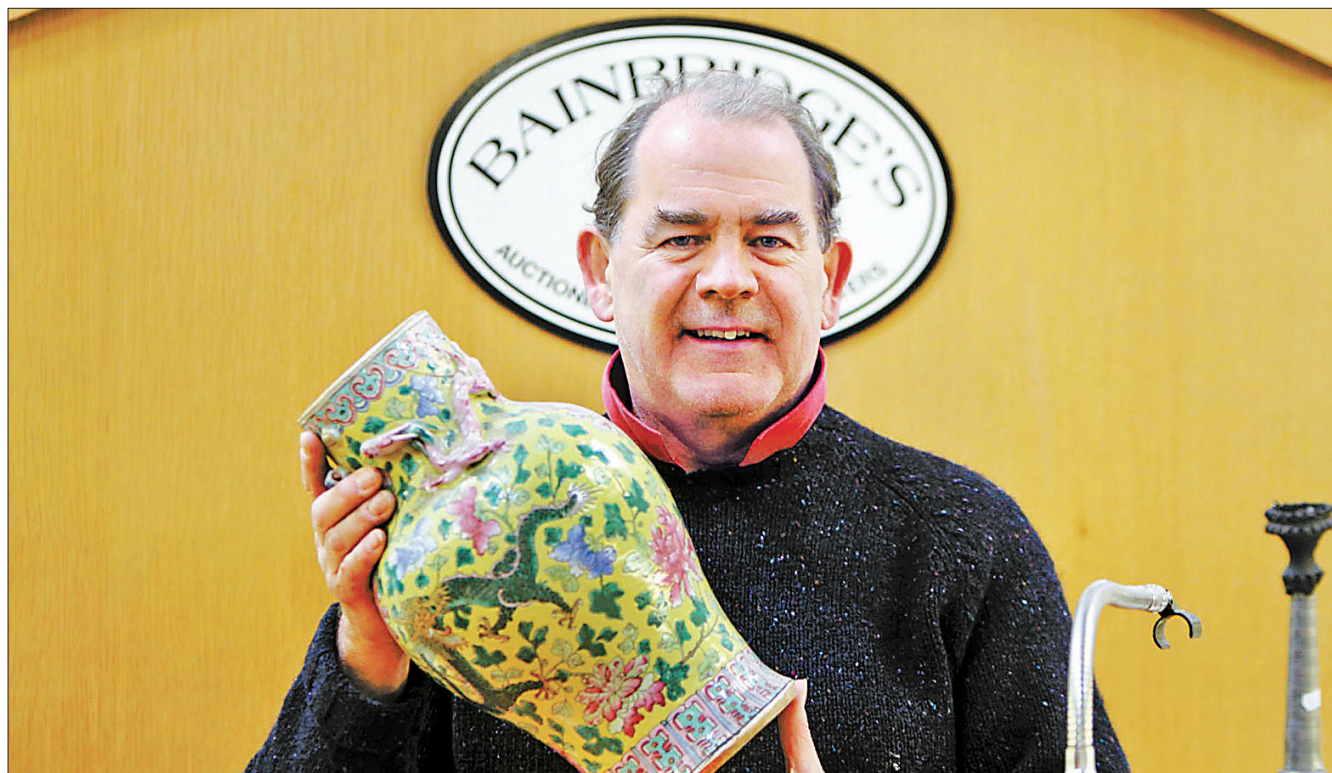
"Now is the time for us to be learning how to better exploit the marketability of our culture, our designs and our innovations in this new era," Jin said.

China's porcelain patriotism?

Stir over millionaires buying porcelain vase

The recent news of an 18th century Chinese vase being sold for a record \$68 million made the covers of a British newspapers.

Many speculated that the unidentified bidder was Chinese. Meanwhile, the Financial Times reported that this was part of a new wave of patriotism from Chinese businessmen who want to buy back their cultural artifacts.



Auctioneer Peter Bainbridge with the Chinese vase that sold for \$68 million on November 11.

James Curley/IC Photo

Historic auction

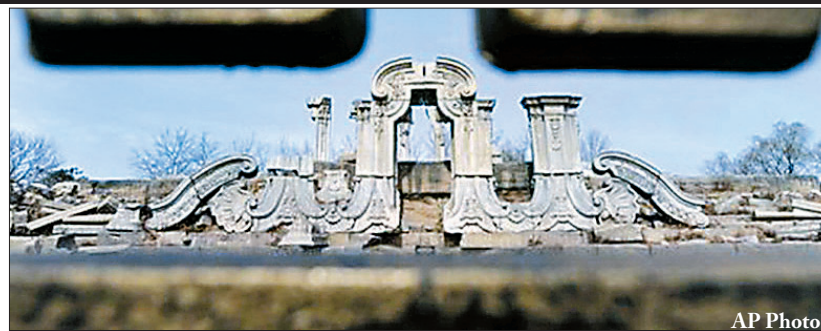
Not all Chinese goods are cheap: Middle Kingdom antiques are going for sky-high prices at auctions around the globe.

On November 11, a Chinese buyer paid a record \$68 million for an 18th-century Qianlong porcelain vase at a London auction.

It isn't the first time a Chinese vase has gone for millions, but it is the largest amount a bidder has paid for a single vase. Last month, Sotheby's in Hong Kong held an auction for similar 18th-century Qianlong vases. One floral item sold for \$18.2 million, while another went for a previous world record of \$32 million, snapped up by a woman originally from Shanghai.

The increasing willingness of Chinese bidders to fork over large sums can sometimes take on a hue of patriotism, as Christie's learned the hard way last year. Chinese authorities kicked up a storm about what they called an "illegal" auction featuring two bronze animal heads at the beginning of 2009. Officials said the bronze sculptures were part of a collection of 12 housed in Beijing's Summer Palace, which was looted by the French and the British in the Second Opium War.

The final bidder turned out to be a Chinese adviser to the China National Treasures Fund, who refused to pay the agreed price of \$15.1 million, saying that the arti-



AP Photo

The Old Summer Palace was ransacked by the British and French soldiers 150 years ago.

facts belonged to China.

Patriotic duty?

"These relics were smuggled, stolen or looted in wars," Li Jianmin, archaeology expert at the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, told an online edition of *People's Daily*. "If we offer huge sums of money to buy them back, it is legalizing these illegal activities."

A "second pillage" is how the *People's Daily* described the auction that took place at Bainbridge's, a relatively small London auction house where the vase dated from the period of the emperor Qianlong went under the hammer.

Buying back looted relics will be of no help teaching the British "to bear their shameful act in mind," said a *People's Daily*

editorial signed by Yan Meng. "Instead, this will make the British more and more intoxicated in their barbaric and singular enjoyment of money."

The bidders were also subjected to criticism. "They are pawns in a game of gambling and ostentatious display of wealth," said the *Beijing News*.

"A gang of wealthy Chinese collectors with dubious motives," said *Nanfang Daily* online.

Some pointed out that the money could have paid for basic healthcare coverage for 25 million Chinese peasants.

In the past, Chinese tycoons who purchased stolen antiquities and returned them to China were described as dutiful patriotic sons and daughters.

Nursing a national scar from what it calls the "100 years of humiliation" the country suffered at foreign hands, the government has encouraged the return of lost national treasures through private capital. They have also nurtured the rise of domestic antique buyers in the hope that local prices might come to match those in New York and London.

But a recent boom in Chinese antiques sales and the record prices paid for them have regulators concerned about the creation of yet another bubble. On the same day that the Qianlong vase was auctioned off, a Beijing collector reportedly paid \$4.3 million for a seal that belonged to the Qianlong emperor at a Bonham's Sale of Fine Chinese Art in London.

With stock markets falling rapidly and overheating property sectors in major cities, investing in art and antiquities has become an increasingly appealing alternative. China's wealthy are flush with cash and eager to diversify out of China's inflated asset bubble.

They have taken to auctions far more eagerly than anticipated, pushing up prices for art and artifacts both at home and abroad.

"This has nothing to do with patriotic feelings," says university lecturer Yan Nong. "It is a contest of wealth and a very ostentatious one."

(Financial Times and Agencies)

Global buzz

Should lost national treasures be returned?

By Huang Daohen

Should lost or looted historical relics be returned to their motherlands? Liu Jianguo, an archaeologist at the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, said there was no easy answer.

Previously, Liu said countries that felt their treasures were looted always tried to politely ask for their return. Greece, Egypt and Nigeria are among the group that have put out a "wanted list" of artifacts.

In 2004, when the Olympics were held in Athens, the Greek government asked that the UK return its Parthenon marbles. Similar cases happened in

Egypt, Peru and Ethiopia.

Some appeals have succeeded. In 2005, Italy returned the Axum obelisk to Ethiopia. Most other requests have failed, Liu said.

But Liu said demands for a treasure's return have taken a severe turn in recent years. Egypt, for instance, sued the British Museum for the return of its marbles in a case that remains ongoing.

Liu said archaeologists are divided on the issue.

Some feel nervous that the return will open a floodgate, leading to disputes over hundreds of artifacts. They believe

museums like the British Museum can provide an adequate environment for promoting research on those artifacts.

Artifacts, no matter where they originated, are part of world heritage. Some archaeologists believe the ultimate goal of collecting is to protect and share the heritage's value with the rest of the world.

Others, however, say national treasures are witnesses to a nation's civilization and thus should be returned and kept in their native settings.

But "should" is not "must," Liu said. Due to an absence of legal legitimacy, there is little precedent for a country to

force museums to give up treasures that they have held for decades.

Referring to China, Liu said the government has attached increasing importance to historical relics overseas. In 2002, the country set up a special fund for the collection of native artifacts that are overseas.

Liu said nowadays the government advocates the reclamation of overseas relics through legal procedures and diplomatic means, "but if you can't get back what's yours using the law, then you have to get stubborn," he said. "It's a long road for national treasures returning home."

Inflation sighted

Consumers change lifestyles to battle price hike

By Huang Daohen

As economists continue to battle over the question of inflation, McDonald's provided a more definitive answer: the company announced last week that the price of a Big Mac in its 1,000 China outlets has risen from 14 to 15 yuan (\$2.25).

Food and daily necessities are becoming more costly across the nation, forcing more economic consumers to change their lifestyles and shopping habits to cope with the price hike.



Shoppers are changing their buying habits to survive the pressure of rising prices.

Sheng Jinwei/CFP Photo

Locals get creative to save

Li Lin, a local 29-year-old IT engineer, has been spending almost as much time in a nearby Carrefour supermarket as he does at his desk, writing programs.

"I heard the price of food is going up, so I started going to the big supermarkets so I could buy and hoard food for myself and my parents," Li said while waiting in the checkout line of Carrefour's Yaojiayuan outlet last Sunday.

Li said the price hikes have forced him to become a smarter shopper. "I think carefully and make price comparisons before deciding to purchase anything," he said.

His hoarding turned out to be a smart move. This week, the price of cooking oil rose about 0.3 percent.

Cooking oil aside, the prices of 24 common food items out of 31 are going up. According

to the National Bureau of Statistics, the country's consumer price index (CPI) soared to a 25-month high of 4.4 percent year on year last month.

The prices of cooking oil, sugar and cotton are leading the hike. Cooking oil jumped 10 to 20 percent over the past month.

The bureau said the CPI is expected to rise another 3.8 percent in the fourth quarter.

But stocking up is hardly enough to combat the price jump. Younger consumers are pooling their money to buy in bulk for bigger discounts.

Huang Dan, 22, a secretary for a US law firm, is one of many group purchase advocates.

She said a cake that normally costs 179 yuan can be purchased for 60 yuan when bought in bulk. "If I buy enough at once, I can have a bigger discount and save more money," she said.

The country now has more

than 1,200 websites to organize such group purchases, according to the Ministry of Commerce. It granted credit certifications to 29 group-buying sites last month as an attempt to protect consumers.

Huang said she is also keeping track of her daily and weekly expenditures.

More dramatically, consumers in Shenzhen have been flooding Hong Kong to shop, this time bringing back bags of food instead of luxury cosmetics.

Xiao Wen, a Shenzhen local, told Xinhua that she and her friends went to Hong Kong once a month to buy daily commodities like cooking oil in bulk.

"Prices in Shenzhen rise fast and a lot of stuff is cheaper in Hong Kong," Xiao was quoted by Xinhua as saying.

Ironically, only a few years ago it was Hong Kong residents who would come to Shenzhen to spend weekends shopping and

dining, Xiao said.

Transformation of lifestyle

Some consumers have altered their lifestyles to cope with the price hikes. The biggest change has been in transportation.

According to the city's traffic authority, the number of riders choosing mass transit is exploding.

The capital began offering a 60 percent price discount to bus riders using electronic traffic cards.

The rising fuel price has sent many former private car drivers to the buses and subways, said Wang Wei, an officer with the Beijing Traffic Management Bureau.

Many more are bicycling to work. Wang, despite owning a Ford car, said he walks or cycles to work when he is not in a hurry. "It is environmentally friendly and besides, it's healthier," he said.

C919 jet to break Boeing-Airbus duopoly

By Chu Meng

China's challenger to Boeing and Airbus, the C919 single-aisle commercial jet, received its first 100 orders from four Chinese airlines and one American leasing company at the 8th China International Aviation and Aerospace Exhibition on November 16 in Zhuhai, Guangdong Province.

Sales of the C919 are predicted to reach more than \$450 billion over the next two decades, according to C919's developer and manufacturer of the Commercial Aircraft Corporation of China (COMAC).

The first orders for the 160-seat C919 were placed by Air China, China Eastern, China Southern, Hainan Airlines, as well as the US-based airplane leasing company General Electric Capital Aviation Services.

COMAC expects to start building the planes next year with a maiden flight in 2014 and first delivery in 2016.

The global aviation industry is putting incredible attention on this first step. The Associated Press reported that "it is showcasing China's ambitions to create Asia's first successful commercial airplane business in a challenge to Airbus and Boeing's long-standing domination of the industry."

The *Mainichi Daily*, a Japanese paper, reported that it was part of a concentrated campaign to create Chinese industries that can compete at the global level.

China is the only Asian country that has successfully produced a commercial jet.

"The customer orders will create a market foundation for the C919, which is now in the engineering development phase," said Liao Qianwang, executive vice-president of the development and research center at the Aviation Industry Corporation of China (AVIC).

The company hopes to position the new craft as a direct competitor to the Boeing 737 and Airbus A320, particularly in the domestic market.

"Airbus has the lead in France, and Boeing has the lead in the US. I hope one day the C919 can dominate our home market," Liao said.

Liu Peiqing, vice president of Engineering School of Beijing University of Aeronautics and Astronautics, said China would have to work hard to woo foreign airlines.

Airbus A320 is the most popular single-aisle commercial jet in the world with 4,000 on duty and another 6,400 orders since 2009, Liu said.

"Because of the priority given to developing homegrown technology, domestic orders offer few signs for its future market performance. China must approve all major airplane purchases and has considerable power over financing and other incentives," Liu said.

The *Los Angeles Times* reported that despite being a domestic product, the internals of the C919 use top-end products from the West such as Honeywell power supplies, onboard computing systems, wheels and brakes.

Analyst insight

Let money out to curb inflation

To conquer the current price hikes, the government raised bank reserve requirements twice in the last two weeks. But experts are worried that it is too late for such measures to be effective.

People's Daily on Monday called for a relaxing of currency accounts and an increase in off-shore investment by Chinese companies.

Zhao Xiao, an economist at the University of Science and Technology Beijing, agreed. Zhao said letting domestic money flow

out would be a better way to battle the price hike.

The current price hikes are due to excess liquidity on the market, which is caused by the loose global monetary environment, Zhao said. The country's M2 (broad money supply) has doubled to \$10 trillion since 2008.

The inflow of hot money also played a role during the price hike, Zhao said. Foreign capital to China has been expecting the yuan to appreciate.

Statistics from the Commerce

Ministry show that the country's foreign direct investment (FDI) soared 48 percent during the first 10 months this year.

While there is apparently too much liquidity, the question is how to let excess money out, Zhao said.

Zhao suggested that the government release restrictions on foreign exchange under current accounts. "We have to let more private companies tap the international market," he said. "More money outflow can actually hedge against the hot money inflow."

Private investors poured about \$67 billion into overseas equities, but Zhao said that is nothing when compared to the country's \$2 trillion net overseas assets.

If the private sector fails, state-owned enterprises and the government will have to take the lead, Zhao said. The government can issue debt and use the money to invest off-shore.

Zhao also said the government should establish a more flexible, market-oriented yuan exchange rate.

What does the gold medal count mean to Chinese?



Team of China celebrate their gold medal on the podium.

Li Jiansu/IC Photo

Worries about devaluation of college degree

By Zhang Dongya

The gap between the starting salary of Chinese graduates and that of migrant workers is decreasing, said Cai Fang, director of the Institute of Population and Labor Economics at the Chinese Academy of Social Science.

This is the first time China has faced such a situation, which has aroused concern about the importance and value of a higher education.

Cai said at a lecture at a forum on Chinese youth last Saturday that China is now facing a shortage of manual laborers, which has resulted in pay raises for migrant workers and salary convergence among different fields.

Statistics in 2003, 2005 and 2008 showed that university graduates were offered around 1,500 yuan after graduation, while migrant worker salaries increased to 1,200 yuan from 700 yuan.

College graduates are due for significant salary raises in later life, but Cai said he was worried about the negative effect this study might have on parents and children.

"It's still hard to say how long this situation will last," he said.

Teng Zhenguo, a Henan Province native, obtained a master's degree but had to return to his original workplace when he failed to find a better job, *China Youth Daily* reported in August.

Cai said people have to realize that those with higher education and more professional knowledge face less competition in the job market.

China reinstituted its college entrance examination system in 1978. Many, with the belief that "education changes the future," sent their children to universities.

With higher education costs increasing without any convincing returns, more people are beginning to doubt whether college is worth it.

Comment

Knowledge is still power

That the educated experience hardship in finding ideal jobs is not related to the diploma itself. There are many factors. Knowledge is still power. No matter what job you're doing now, your diploma will offer you a comparative advantage to those who don't have your level of education.

— Edison, netizen on sohu.com

Standing out in any trade

Migrant workers are getting paid more because they are honest and hard-working. They've won their hard-earned money. Besides, there are too many college students. Policy loosening has made it too easy for people to enter college. And many graduates are fastidious and picky when it comes to jobs. An employer would choose an honest and hard-working person over a whiner any day.

— Chen Xiaoyu, playwright

The era of the diploma is over

Undergraduate diplomas aren't what they were 10 years ago. A graduate with a diploma but no work experience and communication ability is less competitive.

College students should be patient about their career prospects — they should focus on more than their current salary.

Even if you have an ideal job, further study is necessary, because a career is longer than you think.

— Mao Wen, salesperson in Japanese enterprise in Beijing

Self-examination needed in education

Parents who pay for 13 or 14 years of education expect some return, but many college students cannot meet the requirements of employers. We should be asking how we can improve the quality of education offered at Chinese colleges.

— Wu Tian, university professor in Tianjin

By Li Zhixin

Xinhua News Agency veteran sports journalist Yang Ming stirred up the public as well as the Chinese sports delegation last Monday through a news commentary that suggested China is winning too many gold medals.

On the first day of the Asian Games, China claimed 19 of 28 gold medals. In the following days, China won so many golds that netizens joked that the award ceremonies should just keep the national anthem set on repeat playback. Yang wrote an article asking the nation to temper its celebration and adjust its attitude toward the medals.

In his opinion, monopolizing gold medals was not necessarily a good thing. "The Asian Games is a happy gathering for all Asian people. We shouldn't only focus on gold medals," he wrote. "But it now appears that China has stolen the spotlight of the Games and made other nations feel inferior."

In the commentary, he said although

China's gold medal count will always lead the world, the physique of ordinary Chinese people is subpar. He suggested that China deemphasize the gold medal and instead let amateurs from universities or sports associations take part in matches for the next Asian Games.

Yin Baolin, the deputy director of the Chinese sports delegation, fiercely refuted Yang. "There is nothing wrong with winning golds in competitive sports and there is no contradiction between competing for gold medals and developing mass sport," he said. "No one has ever said other countries like the US, Russia and Japan think little of winning golds."

The deputy director implied Yang's intent was to hype himself through such a controversial column.

"I have kept a watchful eye on the issue since 2000," Yang said. "I meant to write the article after the Asian Games, but China's sports delegation's mighty performance on

the first day impelled me to publish the article in advance."

"I just want the public to discuss the issue," he said.

He said his comment was not intended as a criticism of either the Games or any athlete. "It's only about China's state-supported sports system," he said. "Now, only China and North Korea use such a system to train athletes in Asia. It's disrespectful to foreign amateur players."

In addition, he said though the Chinese government has proposed a parallel strategy for developing competitive sports and a nationwide fitness campaign since the 1980s, the development of competitive sports has held an overwhelmingly dominant position.

"China's physically active population and sports facilities per capita certainly cannot rank in the top 10 in Asia, even if China's competitive sports have made brilliant achievements in the past 20 years," Yang said.

ment investment.

People can exercise without any facility if they really want to strengthen their physique. But now some people are blaming the athletes who win medals for taking away the public's sport funding — isn't that going too far? What's more, athletes in China don't get that many benefits. What's wrong with them trying to make their lives better through winning more gold medals?

— Li Xin, public servant

Deep thinking about China's sports

Articles written by veteran reporters such as Yang Ming contain viewpoints formed after observation and research. They might be sharp and even biased, but people with media or sports backgrounds should debate as China transitions into an international sports powerhouse. Such debates can lead to deeper thinking and understanding about China's sports. It's time for us to think about the new direction of China's sports development.

— Xu Jiren, Xinhua sports editor

Comment

Chances for officials' promotion

What do we want to show the world by hosting big events like the Asian Games, Olympics and World Expo? In the opinion of state leaders, these events are the best opportunities for the country to display its achievements since opening up. For the public, they get a chance to stand atop the world. And for sports officials, it is a chance to win more investment from the government and promotions if their participants become gold medalists.

Yang's words did jab at sports officials. And the strong response from the deputy head of the Chinese sports delegation helped reveal the mask of the typical Chinese sports official, whose eye is fixed on his position and the gold medal. Anyway, gold medals are the ladder for them to win promotions.

— Li Yanqing, social critic

Still low in per capita terms

Even though the Chinese delegation has won so many medals, we do not have

as many as South Korea in terms of per capita, so we shouldn't slack. We should fight for more golds, and as long as we don't become arrogant after some success, we'll be OK. After all, China is still at a stage of rapid development, it is unavoidable to encounter various imperfections. We should look more at the positive side.

— An Li, high school teacher

State-supported system

Yang isn't saying we should give up competing for gold. Rather, it is a discussion about the values of sports. If you look at the Chinese soccer, you will know that China's conventional system is not enough to solve all the problems that China's competitive sports encounter.

— Duan Qigang, editor

Competitive sports doesn't get people to play more sports

Although it is a fact that China's physically active population is smaller compared with other countries in Asia, we can't attribute this simply to govern-



Most of Talmor's clients are state corporations which do business overseas.

Self-defense training

On a dark night in Beijing, a Chinese man drives on a narrow road while chatting with friends in the car. Suddenly a group of armed men appear and train guns at the car, forcing the vehicle to stop. The leader is a tall, foreign man who pushes his gun against the driver's head.

All in a day's work.

The Beijing-based Israeli security company, Alfa-angel led the exercise. Its leader is a man named Adi Talmor, a 38-year-old former Israeli paratrooper and government security officer. He set up his company with a Chinese partner three years ago.

His company has trained more than 2,000 people so far, mostly employers of large state corporations that do work in the Middle East.

"Our goal is to prepare them for what may happen when they're stationed in dangerous hell holes," Talmor said.

The company currently has eight Israeli instructors, all of them ex-special forces from the Israeli army, and some Chinese staff and an African-Muslim cultural counselor.

Talmor said Israel is well known for its counter-terrorism experience, and his company's instructors are all professional security experts. "If we were the rescuers during the Filipino bus hostage crisis, no one would dead, including the gunman," Talmor said, adding that the Filipino police botched the rescue. They lacked a clear plan and wasted valuable time.

As part of the training, Talmor's group teaches clients about religious taboos in foreign countries, terrorist organizations' operational methods, self-defense techniques and ways to handle dangerous situations.

They also practice being victims. Twenty-four-hour role-playing exercises involve minor safety violations, like having one's mobile phone stolen, and escalate into kidnapping. Blindfolded trainees are surrounded by distressing noise and physical threats. This part scares some people, Talmor said, noting that some grown men are even reduced to tears.

Besides training employers, Talmor said they also train bodyguards in China.

"China has many bodyguards, but few of them are professionals," he said. "It's easy for me to hurt their boss."

He said that there are plenty of bodyguards that can fight, but they lack the tactical mind and awareness necessary for escaping dangerous situations. They don't know how to avoid trouble – having a

Israeli soldier trains Chinese in self-defense

By Han Manman

If you were kidnapped in a foreign country, what would you do? Wait out your destiny or try to rescue yourself?

China's "go-global" strategy has taken its citizens into some of the world's more perilous markets, including in Iraq, Pakistan and Nigeria.

Hundreds of thousands of Chinese employees are said to be overseas every year and unqualified to handle high-risk situations like armed robbery and abduction.

Aware of the void in self-defense and counterterrorism training, a group of former Israeli special forces and security experts started a business in Beijing three years ago to teach Chinese people how to get out of potentially life-threatening jams.



Adi Talmor was a paratrooper in the Israeli military.

Photos provided by Adi Talmor

military background is nice, but it's not ideal for being a bodyguard.

The importance of awareness

For Talmor, teaching others how to be more aware in danger is

more important than learning how to physically confront attackers.

"There is no absolute safety in this world. But we can learn how to avoid un-safe factors," Talmor said. "Safety comes from



Talmor's group role plays kidnapping with the trainees.

recognizing and avoiding potential danger."

Many dangerous situations can be avoided, Talmor said.

He uses rape as an example. Talmor said that in 80 percent of rape cases, the victims know the rapist.

"The rapist may be the victim's friend, friend's friend, neighbor or even a nearby store worker," he said.

"We don't want you to become superman pulling off stunts at any given moment," Talmor said. "People usually don't get the chance to physically confront their attacker; that's why we teach them how to escape and interrupt the attack."

"Judgment is very important at critical moments," he said.

Talmor said the first several minutes after a kidnapping are very crucial in determining the final outcome.

"This period is the where there are the most unknowns, where both the kidnappers and hostages are nervous," Talmor said. If hostages stay calm and accurately gauge their position, they may find a way to escape.

If a person is kidnapped in a parking lot, for instance, he or she should shout for help when the kidnapper drags him or her into his car.

"Once you're in the car, the chances for escape are lower," Talmor said. "Then, you should follow orders, rather than give the impression that you want to escape."

"But escape is still possible. Just learn and study the situation and look for the golden moment," he said.

Military days

Talmor was born into an intellectual family. His father is a lawyer and his mother is a journalist. But influenced by his father's military experience, Talmor chose to become a paratrooper when he was 18.

For Talmor, the most unforgettable moment in his military life came when he was stationed on Lebanon.

"In Lebanon, we sometimes faced bomb attacks, and I felt I could die at any moment,"

Talmor said.

"But I never thought about danger and death during that period; all I thought about were small things, like how cold the weather was and how long I needed to walk today."

Talmor said the military taught him all the fighting skills and warfare knowledge he knows today, but he learned his security and counter-terrorism skills from his training to become a security officer after he was discharged.

"I worked for the agency for seven years. The work was good and salary was nice, but that's not what I wanted," Talmor said. "That was only a job for me, not a career. I wanted to have my own career."

To prepare for his calling, Talmor went back to school and decided to major in East Asian Studies at the Hebrew University. There, he developed an interest in China, and seven years ago he made up his mind to go to Beijing to study Mandarin.

Starting a business

In 2007, he started his security-training career in Beijing after seeing there was a need here.

"Although China has been relatively unaffected for the moment, it does not mean terrorist attacks cannot happen here. You need to be prepared," Talmor said, adding that terrorism is like a virus that can spread to any part of the world.

But operating this kind of business in China is complicated. Chinese people's awareness of security is comparatively lower than in other parts of the world.

"The biggest problem is Chinese do not want to pay money to learn security knowledge," Talmor said.

A four-day course is around 8,000 yuan, Talmor said. The price is prohibitive to many cost-conscious Chinese people.

"China is a potential market for security training, especially since the country's rapid economic development has created more wealthy individuals and decreased personal urban safety," Talmor said. "But it takes time for people to accept this."

British Council launches program in migrant schools

By Chu Meng

The British Council, the culture and education section of the British Embassy, launched UK-China Climate Generation Shanghai Expo Legacy Program in Beijing on Tuesday by presenting 1,000 students of migrant workers a seed rod from the Expo's UK Pavilion.

Rebecca Nadin, director of the Global Climate and Sustainability Program at the British Council, launched the program at Machikou Central Primary School along with the school's headmaster, Jin Dehong.

The school, located in an eastern suburb, has 380 students. Two-thirds of them are registered as non-city residents; the rest are children of migrant workers. It has a strong arts program which specializes in folk music and Chinese painting.

The school also teaches environmental protection to teenagers. For this reason, UK Prime Minister David Cameron dropped by on November 10 as part of his state visit to China.

During the opening ceremony, Nadin was led to a classroom where a climate change awareness activity for students aged 10 to 12, led by three British



UK Prime Minister David Cameron and climate program director Rebecca Nadin visited Machikou School on November 10. Photo provided by British Council

Council "youth climate champions," was ongoing. He then joined the students and youth climate champions in a game designed to promote energy efficiency.

The three climate champions, Li Chuheng Jenna, Wang Yuwei

and Wang Kai, are teens from the school who have earned this designation for their efforts to reduce carbon emissions and promote understanding of and action on climate change by delivering classroom presentations.

As a major part of the Expo legacy program, the Climate Champions program will designate 1,000 non-city or migrant students between the ages of 12 and 18 as "climate champions." They will impact half a million

people in China, according to the council.

Nadin said the British Council intends to distribute 1,000 seed rods from the pavilion, along with educational material to migrant schools across China as a tool for teachers to develop biodiversity themes in their curriculum.

The UK Pavilion, awarded "Best in Show" and nicknamed "the Dandelion" by the Chinese media, was designed as a 60,000-rod "seed bank" to promote biodiversity around the globe.

"I am proud to represent the council in undertaking such activities in Chinese migrant schools, whose education facilities are limited, especially for environmental protection," Nadin said. "Young students should all be aware of the importance of tackling the effects of climate change and preserving the world's biodiversity."

The students who received the seed rod presented Nadin with a painting and two calligraphy scrolls they created based on the theme of environmental protection. A student orchestra also gave a performance using traditional instruments of the folk song "The Fragrance of Osmanthus Perfumes the Autumn Air."

Youth forum promotes low-carbon economy



Wen Tiejun, deputy secretary-general of China Reform Research Center, gave a speech at the forum. Photo by Zhao Hongyi

By Zhao Hongyi

More than 600 representatives from more than 30 countries and regions around the world met in Beijing from November 22 to 25 to discuss sustainable development in commemoration of "International Youth Year."

The four-day Global Sustainable Leaders Forum was themed "age of low-carbon economy: opportunities in the global emerging market." It was divided into four sections: global sustainable program exhibition, global inter-generational dialogue, global development of sustainable leadership and global sustainable development projects.

The forum considered sustainable development as the fifth industrial revolution, after the

Internet. Guests discussed the integration of business, finance and industry, and opportunities for social progress in developing countries.

Various projects were shown at the forum's expo. Many were created by students showing technological and business innovation with the theme of green industry and life.

More than 80 speakers, 30 professional panels and 100 exhibitions focused on issues of sustainability. A broadcast of the forum was streamed live online, reaching an estimated 1 million people worldwide.

"We Chinese youth should not miss the opportunity to participate in this global campaign because it is closely related to our

future," said Ann Wang, a volunteer.

The forum's participants agreed that planting trees and avoiding an unnecessarily wasteful lifestyle were important.

The forum was proposed by the UN Youth Office, the Working Office on Climate Change of the UN Secretary-General and more than 100 youth organizations from around the world.

On August 12, the UN made 2010 International Youth Year for the second time.

The forum also consisted of members from world-renowned universities like Harvard University, Cambridge University, the University of Hong Kong, Tsinghua University, Beijing University and Renmin University of China.



珠宝设计大赏《疯狂的珠宝》

BQ 2010年11月25日倾情呈现



International new media artists gather for "H2O"

By Chu Meng

After five months of cooperation in a hundred-year-old building east of Tian'anmen Square, a group of internationally renowned video installation artists from the US, Germany and China on Sunday launched a water-themed exhibition aimed at raising awareness about the importance of maintaining balance in the ecosystem.

"Shan Shui 2010: H2O" marks the second installment of the Green Project, launched by Christopher Phillips, curator at the International Center of Photography in New York, and Weng Ling, director of the Beijing Center for the Arts.

Phillips said by using contemporary Chinese and Western art as a focal point, the Green Project aims to stimulate cross-cultural discussion about the ways humankind can move toward a sustainable balance between the natural environment and needs of human society.

"The Beijing Center for the Arts, where artists have been working for the past five months, gave them extra inspiration as well," he said.

The center, a neo-classical compound designed by Sid H. Nealy in 1903 and influenced by modern Chinese culture, served as the US embassy during the Qing Dynasty (1616-1911) and is now protected by municipal heritage conservation laws.

The current exhibition presents video works by four contemporary artists, Song Dong and Wang Gongxin from China, Bill Viola from the US and Janaina Tschape from Germany.

Tschape's four-screen video installation, *Blood Sea Series*, was controversial. On a huge screen, from floor to ceiling and spread out



Janaina Tschape's video installation *Blood Sea Series*

Photo provided by Janaina Tschape

against three walls, four mysterious and melancholy women float deep under water in stretched gowns with their eyes closed.

"This work was decisively influenced by my powerful childhood dreams of living underwater as a mermaid," Tschape said. She is, in fact, named after a half-human, half-fish Afro-Brazilian sea goddess regarded as the "mother of the waters."

Tschape said females and water have a lot in common. "For example, they are very flexible and beautiful, their personalities are very sensitive and intangible, but persistent and tranquil when doing something."

"I want people to feel comfortable watching the work because it serves to remind the public, especially men, to think about how women are treated today," she said.

Viola, who started to work with video in the 1970s, brought his video installation *Ablutions*. It presents a Christian ritual of bodily purification via a pair of vertical-format video images that were shot by a camera from an unchanging position. Each image shows, in slow motion, a stream of water pouring from a fountain.

Viola has long been recognized as one of the world's leading pioneers of this new medium. His fasci-

ination with water comes, Viola said, from a near-fatal accident.

"I almost drowned when I was 6 years old on a family holiday at Trout Lake in upstate New York," he said. "It was possibly the most profound, life-changing and transcendent experience I've ever had. It was accompanied by a complete lack of fear – only calm and peace. When I think about it now it centers me again."

"Although these works are visually and conceptually quite distinct, what unites them is the fact that they all highlight a single, unique substance – water – which is an inescapable element of human existence."

Austrian art sparks dialogue about cultural misunderstanding

By Li Zhixin

A visual work by Austrian artists Christof Schlegel and Almut Rink called *Early Heaven* has roused a stirring dialogue between Chinese art critics over cultural misunderstanding between the East and West.

The work is currently on display at the Austro-Sino Arts Program Exhibition Space (ASAP) in 798 Art District.

In the work, the artists appear in Chinese pajamas in front of the display walls. They are waiting, or sleepwalking, seemingly lost in a city constantly in transition.

The work was inspired by the duo's first visit to China in 2005. "The huge display walls manifest a vision of the city's future, with grand slogans and people in pajamas walking in public urban spaces everywhere," Schlegel said. "We have never seen such images in Europe, though



Austrian artists and Chinese art critics discussing cultural misunderstanding

Photo by Li Zhixin

the wearing of pajamas is a link to Western culture."

Schlegel used the new CCTV tower as an example. It was built a year ago, but remains closed to the public. "The building itself is just like a picture on the wall. It has become a thing with symbolic significance, but it isn't practical."

Fang Zhenning, an architecture critic, disagreed with Schlegel's view. "People in pajamas on the street don't think the way artists do. It's just people's confused concept of fashion and has no other implications at all," she said.

The CCTV tower, Fang said, is a workplace, not a tourist site. "But the new tower is bound to be open to the public eventually," he said.

Zhu Qi, an art critic, said most

Westerners only focus on cultural exchange in the post-Mao era. He calls on Western artists to extend their horizons and talk about exchange dating back to the days of Christopher Columbus.

"To better understand another country's art, we have to know more about their history and culture," he said. "Otherwise, we can't use art to communicate with others."

Zhu also pointed out that due to globalization, Chinese people know more about Western art and philosophy than their counterparts know about China. "Such imbalance of understanding will hinder communication between the East and West," he said.

Karel Dudesek, the founder of ASAP, said in order to minimize such misunderstanding and imbalance of exchange, ASAP has been helping Austrian artists live and create in China since last year.

Event

Country fair

People seldom get to learn how raw food materials are grown and sold. This educational event provides a chance for people to explore the topic. It consists of a farmer fair selling healthy agricultural products and a farmer forum connecting farmers and consumers and explaining the policies that affect food production and distribution in Beijing. Attendees are invited to contribute to a digital map about how food enters and circulates throughout the city.

Where: Studio-X Beijing, 46 Fangjia Hutong, Andingmennei Dajie, Dongcheng District
When: November 10 am – 4 pm

Tel: 6402 8682
Cost: Free

Culture tour: Yajishan Daoist Temple

Beijing Hikers, an agency created in 2001, is offering a unique route into the three temples of Yajishan. Those on this in-depth guided tour will explore the history and architecture of the temples. This is also a rare opportunity to look depictions of Hell from a Daoist perspective. The hike will be taken slowly; stairs lead to the peak of the mountain.

Where: Beijing Hikers, Xinhualian Ligang Building 2, Room 601, 26 Jiuxianqiao Zhong Lu, Chaoyang District

When: November 27, 9 am – 6 pm

Tel: 6432 2786
Cost: 320 yuan

"Suitcase" children drama workshop

Educating children through drama is widely considered an effective teaching method. This workshop introduces this contemporary concept and brings children together. It provides intentionally designed spaces for children to use their imagination and explore how it feels to be "foreign" and what it means to be at home in the world. It will be led by UK drama education master Chris Cooper.

Where: UCCA La Suite, 4 Jiuxianqiao Lu, Chaoyang District

When: November 27, 2-4:30 pm

Tel: 8459 9269
Cost: 50 yuan

Capital conversations: Brand China

Kaiser Kuo, director of international communications at Baidu, and David Wolf of the Silicon Hutong blog will talk about the building of the China brand. Topics about China's image and the role of soft power will be open for discussion.

Where: Capital M, 3/F, 2 Qianmen Pedestrian Street, Dongcheng District

When: November 28, 4 pm

Tel: 6702 2727
Cost: 65 yuan

(By Liang Meilan)

One card, many gyms



More and more residents are going to neighborhood gyms to stay healthy and fit.

CFP Photo

By Liang Meilan

A new one-card-pass system has been initiated in Beijing's gym industry, allowing those with memberships to go to different venues for exercise. The card also functions as a transportation and shopping card.

So far, more than 100 gyms from different companies have joined the project, including Hosa Fitness Club, Junwangfu Natatorium, Nirvana Fitness and Spa, and Yuetan Gymnasium.

Going to the gym is a weekly

routine for many people. Most use their membership cards for one location, but a problem arises when they move.

"I have sold five cards in two years at very low prices to other people because I've changed apartments or been dissatisfied with my gym," said Wei Jianghui. "This new card effectively solves these difficulties."

With the card, people can enjoy discounts between 20 and 50 percent. In Hosa, for example, using the swimming pool usually

costs 100 yuan, but those with the card can get in for 25 yuan.

"It's a good way to try services in various gyms and find the most desirable one, which also becomes incentive for gyms to improve their quality," Wei said.

The card can also be used to pay for the subway, bus, parking and road tolls. McDonald's and supermarkets like Merry Mart, as well as cinemas, also accept the card.

The application process is similar to getting a transporta-

tion card – no identification necessary. The initial fee is 20 yuan.

This project is conducted by the municipal Sports Bureau and aimed at promoting national fitness and the booming gym industry.

Issuing office

Where: 5/F, Building B, Chuangjing Building, Shouti Nanlu, Haidian District

Work hours: 9:30 am – 4 pm

Tel: 5889 2889

Website: bjjsw.com

ASK Beijing Today

Email your questions to: weiyi@ynet.com

It's been 10 days since the official start of central heating, but the temperature in my apartment remains 10 C. I'd like to know which department I should turn to for help.

Call the Heating Supply Office, an authorized third-party testing organization, and ask them to test the temperature of your house. You can then use the information to get free repair and compensation. This is the first time the city has used this measure to ensure residents get heating. The four testing organizations are: the Beijing Energy and Environment Center (5205 2600), Beijing Coal Saving Office (6512 9193), Beijing Construction Quality Testing Center (6817 6296) and Tongzhou Energy Saving Testing Station (6955 0582). The testing will cost less than 600 yuan.

I'd like to go skiing in and around Beijing, but I didn't bring my ski boots. Where can I find some? I had a difficult time renting boots from the resort last year, so I want to buy a high-quality pair.

Check out Flying Fox, a skiing gear store (ffox.cn). They supply all sorts ski equipment from top brands like Fischer, Vision, Haldi and Ttiss. You can find the store at 1 Beisanhuan Xi Lu, Haidian District (1360101 9577). View items posted on the website and ask whether they have the right size before going. They also provide home delivery.

(By Liang Meilan)

Air ticket prices drop in December

By Annie Wei

After the Shanghai Expo came to a close, December flight tickets between Beijing and Shanghai dropped to 280 yuan.

According to szair.com, a website that specializes in low-price

air tickets, there will be many promotions next month.

The website said most domestic flight prices are down 20 percent, and low fares will continue into early 2011.

Although Christmas falls on a

weekend this year, szair.com said it would not raise its ticket prices for that time. Passengers can purchase low-priced tickets through the holiday season.

Szair.com suggests passengers book 15 to 20 days in advance.

Below are special online deals

Beijing to Wuhan: 270 yuan after 75 percent discount

Beijing to Yinchuan: 250 yuan after 77 percent discount

Beijing to Kunming: 450 yuan after 75 percent discount

SUBSCRIBE

to **BEIJING TODAY**

For gift!

Hotline: 010-65902513, 65902534, 65902626 (voice message function is on for 24 hrs)
Email: bjtoday@beijingtoday.com.cn Web: www.beijingtoday.com.cn

How to GET A GIFT



a gift card worth 200 yuan valid as cash at Goose & Duck Pub



Beijing Today one-year subscription costs 104 yuan: You can get a Goose and Duck gift card worth 200 yuan. Stocks are limited, so subscribe as soon as possible.





Liu Xiaodong and his Bent Rib



The House Where I Grew Up



Han Shengzi Buys Land



Li Wu Works the Night Shift and Still Can't Sleep By Day

Going 1

Painting change in

“This time, I’ve decided, I’m really going home.” Liu scrawled these words on the wall of Ullens Center for Contemporary Art (UCCA) at his latest solo exhibition last Wednesday. The emotions surrounding his return were complex: one part excitement and another part fear.

Liu has traveled and painted many places – Gansu, Qinghai, Tibet, Sichuan and Taiwan – but he had never painted his hometown.

Guo Xiaoyan, the vice director of Minsheng Art Museum, decided to change this by inviting Liu to present an exhibition of new paintings at UCCA.

“Without this exhibition, I don’t think I would have ever painted my hometown. It’s hard not to feel awkward when faced by friends and relatives,” Liu said.

Liu hails from Jincheng, a small town in Liaoning Province. The town was built around a paper mill: from the 1950s to the 1980s, the mill employed thousands of workers and produced paper used to print schoolbooks. Economic competition, industrial restructuring and environmental issues have been responsible for the area’s devastating layoffs.

In 1980, when he was 17, Liu left his hometown to study in Beijing.

In the 30 years since, he has returned to Jincheng to see his parents at Chinese New Year, but this July was his first extended trip

home in three

“Most of u
We hope it d
we left it,” Li
tion has shat

“By going
people and p
pain, nostalg
tions. The lan
Guo said.

Economic
the landscape
the people ha

Three dec
thick smoke
blowing and

Workers’ f
were divided

“It was a p
and ditches h
enterprises w
said. “The wor
hometown ha

“By going home to paint, sketch, observe and capture the people and places of his childhood, Liu is confronting history, pain, nostalgia, familial memory and a range of complex emotions. The landscape is familiar, but the people have changed.**”**

– Guo Xiaoyan, the vice director of Minsheng Art Museum

“The working class has been swept away. I went back to learn my hometown had been invaded by high buildings, making everyone city residents without a home.**”**

– Liu Xiaodong

“Liu is not only a painter, but also a good storyteller. He recorded the background stories and wrote biographical sketches of the people he painted.**”**

– Jerome Sans, director of the UCCA

Liu Xiaodong: Hometown Boy

Where: Ullens Center for Contemporary Art (UCCA), 798 Art District, 4 Jiuxianqiao Lu, Chaoyang District

When: Until February 20, 2011, daily except Monday, 10 am – 6 pm

Admission: 15 yuan, 10 yuan for students, free on Thursdays

Tel: 8459 9269

Xiao Dou Ha

home

Liu Xiaodong's hometown

By He Jianwei

Liu Xiaodong, one of the country's top painters, travels far and wide to find subjects, often painting them at his "on-site studio": an easel and canvas.

In his paintings, Liu explores social issues such as the environment, urbanization, poverty and wealth, personal and cultural identity, and familial and gender relationships.

His most recent destination was his hometown, where he stayed four months to paint people and landscapes this July.

It was his first trip home since he left for Beijing some 30 years ago. While it may have been an easy trip physically, the spiritual return was an experience far more difficult.



Self Portrait

decades.

us feel nostalgic when talking about our hometown. doesn't change and will always be there for us just like u said. "But the reality is different. Rapid urbaniza- tered those dreams."

home to paint, sketch, observe and capture the laces of his childhood, Liu is confronting history, ia, familial memory and a range of complex emo- ndscape is familiar, but the people have changed,"

e development and the passage of time have changed e of his hometown and altered the lives and faces of e grew up with.

ades ago, Jincheng had a busy industrial scene with billowing from its high smokestacks, steam whistles crowds of workers changing shifts.

families lived in single-story bungalows. Their homes into blocks separated by farmland, fields and ditches. paradise for the kids. But, over the years, the fields ave given way to multi-story buildings. The state-owned ere restructured and the factories went bankrupt," he rking class has been swept away. I went back to learn my d been invaded by high buildings, making everyone city

residents without a home."

All of his childhood friends still live in Jincheng. Some are factory workers; others subsist on unemployment insurance.

It had been 30 years since he saw one of his friends' homes. "I'm glad that I have experienced the past again by visiting my friends, because the decoration of their homes reminds me of where my parents live in the 1990s," he said.

For Liu, big changes mean memories are being demolished. "Maybe it is a selfish idea since I'm on the sidelines. I once asked some Tibetans if they felt satisfied with modernization. They replied in kind: 'Why would I ride a horse if I have a motorcycle?'" he said.

Liu once painted portraits of his friends when preparing for art school. When his paintings became valuable, he quit painting them. "I felt guilty to make money by painting people I knew," he said.

One of the models from his Hot Bed series died in an accident. "He was poor and had a daughter about the same age as my own. I really wanted to help his family. When I gave some money to the wife, all of her relatives stared at me. I knew it was not proper to give it to them," he said.

He has pledged to never sell his new round of paintings unless he is one day left without an alternative.

Although the appearances of his friends have changed, their friendship remains. "Unlike people in Beijing, they are not interested

in my job and don't ask how much my paintings sell for, so I felt at ease when I picked up my brush," he said.

For four months he painted and kept diaries. Taiwanese direc- tor Hou Hsiao-Hsien made an in-depth documentary recording Liu's trip.

The UCCA exhibition has been divided into three separate spaces, showing three parts of his works.

The fist space includes more than 200 pages of Liu's diary, a record of his daily activities, plans, encounters, thoughts and impressions. "Liu is not only a painter, but also a good storyteller. He recorded the background stories and wrote biographical sketches of the people he painted," said Jerome Sans, director of the UCCA.

The second space displays 26 landscapes from his hometown and portraits of his childhood friends. The paintings reflect their current lives: Xiao Dou is seen smoking a cigarette in a pool hall, Chengzi is seen hanging out at his karaoke club and Liu's former martial arts teacher is on duty at the police station.

The third space is a screening room showing Hou's documen- tary. "I have tremendous respect for him as a director, and as someone who has a deep understanding of people, life and art. His involvement really increases the power of these paintings, because they all have a back story that needs to be explained," Liu said.



nging Out at the Pool Hall

Photos provided by UCCA



Shu Jun With His Chubby Son



"Jincheng Airport"

Sideman turned Fed head teaches history

By Charles Zhu

When reading Alan Greenspan's *The Age of Turbulence: Adventure in a New World*, it is impossible to forget how great a teacher history can be. Greenspan lashes out at Bush's economic policies and at the financial devastation caused by subprime mortgages.

The current world financial system provides an excellent backdrop for Greenspan's reflections on his drama-packed career.

Greenspan refers to the era following the September 11 terrorist attacks in the US as a "new world." It is "the world of a global capitalist economy that is vastly more flexible, resilient, open, self-correcting and fast-changing than it was even a quarter century earlier."

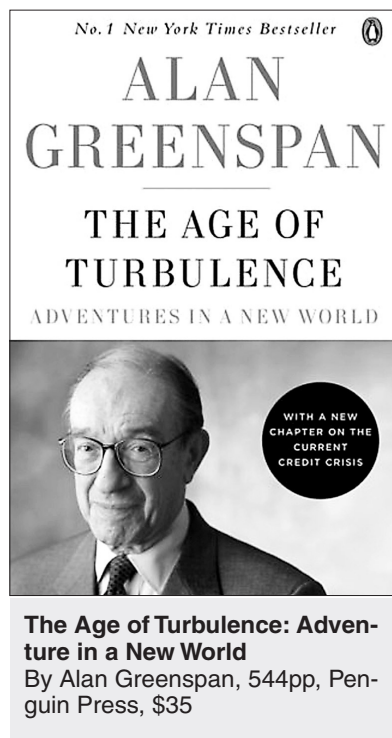
Greenspan has worked with every president since 1969, and the book carries criticisms of each. Gerald Ford, an unusually decent politician, is ranked the highest. "He always understood what he knew and what he didn't know," Greenspan writes.

Following him in the ranking is Bill Clinton for his "consistent, disciplined focus on long-term economic growth." He has bittersweet memories of Nixon, Reagan and George H. W. Bush and has no opinion of the Bush junior.

He never seems more enchanted than when looking at economic indicators and predicting everything from the 1958 steel recession to the 1990s boom. "My early training was to immerse myself in extensive detail in the workings of some small part of the world and to infer from that detail the way that segment of the world behaves. That is the process I have applied throughout my career," he writes.

As a libertarian economist, he has absolute faith in market forces.

"The reinstatement of open markets and free trade during the past quarter



century has elevated many hundreds of millions of the world population from poverty. Admittedly many others around the globe are still in need, but large segments of the developing world's population have come to experience a measure of affluence long the monopoly of so-called developed countries," he writes.

Born in 1926, Greenspan was raised in Washington Heights, the only son of a stockbroker. He attended George Washington High School a few years behind Henry Kissinger and a few decades before the baseball stars Rod Carew and Manny Ramirez.

In 1944 a draft team in downtown Manhattan rejected Greenspan, a recent high school graduate, for military service because he had a tuberculosis-like shadow on his lung. As an act of revolt, Greenspan went to audition to play clarinet for the trumpeter Henry Jerome's traveling big band.

He got the job, but as a sideman and never a soloist. Among his fellow musicians he became known as the band's resident intellectual, the clarinetist who could file his fellow musicians' income tax forms for them. Between sets, when they disappeared into the green room – "which would quickly fill with the smell of tobacco and pot," – Greenspan read books about business.

At Columbia University, Arthur Burns, a future chairman of the Fed, became Greenspan's graduate-school tutor. While many of his classmates were puzzled by such grand questions as the new economic order, Greenspan took greater interest in numbers and equations. "I still had the sideman psychology," he writes. "I preferred to focus on technical challenges and did not have a macro view."

He did not have a higher plane of observation until the 1950s, when his first wife introduced him to Ayn Rand's New York salon. Rand – whom Greenspan calls "quite plain to look at" but "a stabilizing force in my life" – urged him to think beyond mathematics and helped turn him into a libertarian economist.

Greenspan eventually made his way to Wall Street, where he ran a consulting firm that forecast the economy. He was doing quite a lucrative business there when Martin Anderson, a friend, asked if Greenspan would like to join Richard M. Nixon's 1968 presidential campaign. It was a road that brought his life new meaning.

Epitome of rural life

By He Jianwei

The ravages of rapid urbanization are not limited to China's cities: the countryside too can be a victim.

Liang Hong, a teacher at China Youth University for Political Sciences, spent five months in her hometown collecting the stories of its villagers for *China in Liangzhuang*, a profile of the cutting living conditions of rural farmers.

Liangzhuang, a small village in the southwest of Henan Province, shares the same fate as many similar villages caught up in the last 30 years of change. The young and able have left for the cities, putting their children in the hands of the elderly.

Since the late 1980s, villagers from Liangzhuang have headed for a life of migrant labor in Beijing and Xi'an. "They became construction workers in Beijing and pedicab drivers near the railway station in Xi'an," Liang said. "The oldest (still working) is 60 and the youngest is 15."

Liang interviewed more than 20 villagers, including her relatives, old friends, neighbors and officials. Through their personal stories of the past 20 years, she learned how rural life is being shaken by urbanization. Unattended children, environmental damage, divorce, meager pensions and limited access to education and medicine continue to plague the countryside.



She recorded the tragic story of a middle school boy who killed an 82-year-old woman and raped her corpse. The boy's parents were working the city, leav-

ing him with his grandmother. He was the top student in his village and well-behaved, and had been long rejected as a suspect in the case.

Most of the villagers isolated the boy's family rather than admit it was a problem related to children being left unattended. "Even my parents couldn't agree that the absence of the boy's parents was in part a cause of this kind of crime. They just asked why, if that was the case, other unattended children didn't similar crimes," Liang said.

Liang said cases of juvenile delinquency in her hometown have grown. In 2007, 18 unattended children were implicated in 15 crimes; in 2008, 35 were involved in another 27 cases; last year, there were 53 involved in 38 cases.

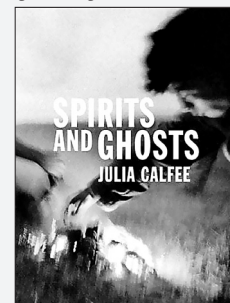
The migration has also shattered village marriages. Liang told another tragic story of a woman who committed suicide because she could not bear the villagers' gossip. "This is a problem for couples who have to separate. Her husband could only return home one or two times a year," the author said.

"I'm just a recorder writing the 'biography' of my hometown and the people still living there," she said.

"Liangzhuang is a common village like millions of others in China. This book is just the epitome of the current rural life."

Timezone 8 book listing

Timezone 8 is a Hong Kong-based publisher, distributor and retailer of books on contemporary art, architecture, photography and design. This week, it recommends three new titles to *Beijing Today* readers.



Spirit and Ghost: Journeys Through Mongolia

By Julia Calfee, 168pp, Power-House Books, 239 yuan

This photo book delves into the transitions and changes in Mongolia since 1996, addressing the issues and problems of the country. Calfee documents the role of shamanism and ritual in this mysterious land. She also documents social ills, spending days and nights in different prisons with adolescents, women, alcoholics, murderers and many innocent people.



Han Lei: In Between

By Tang Xin, 208pp, Timezone8, 280 yuan

This book is a collection of photographer Han Lei's latest solo exhibition shown in Beijing this April. The selections include works between 1980 and the present. Many viewers were amazed by how absurd, surreal, ugly and shocking some of Han's pictures were.



Facade: Yin Zhaoyang Solo Exhibition

By Zhu Zhu, 180pp, Timezone8, 300 yuan

This collection includes the artist's exhibition in May, assembling Yin's representative work on portrait motifs and a documental survey presenting his personal history. Among the artists in the '80s generation, Yin pioneered the artistic exploration of youthful sadness and began for the first time to project the self-imagery and emotional features of the generation onto the canvas.

(By He Jianwei)

African beats on the djembe



By Wang Yu

Most Chinese people see Africa as a mysterious land of diamonds, poverty and wildlife. But this year's World Cup in South Africa helped demystify that image – at least among local drummers.

The African djembe, a skin-covered hand drum, is now a staple of the city's cultural events. Drummers love it for its silvery sound and its flexible play that blends well with Chinese folk grooves from the southwest. One original Chinese djembe brand has even caught the attention of master drummers from Guinea.

What started as weekly outdoor parties for a drum studio has turned into the djembe school that is supporting an explosion in the local rhythm scene.

Xie Yufei and his drum band met beginning drummers last Sunday for a jam-training session.

The group met at Buu Club, a studio in a residential community opposite Sihui subway station, and played until their hands were too sore to beat the drums any longer.

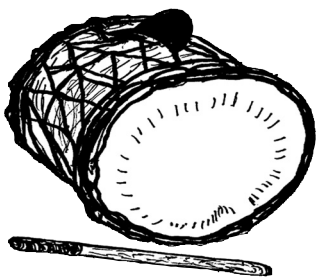
Most came with their own djembe in decorated bags.

Usually Buu Club's parties are free – only lessons require payment.

But Xie doesn't count on that money: he and his band teach for fun.

The Sunday party has been a tradition in Xie's dejmbe community since it formed in 2007 at Ditan Park.

Xie, a 37-year-old illustrator, first encountered the djembe while in Germany as part of artist Ai Weiwei's project "Fairytale." He was attracted by the tribal grooves and flexibility shown by a group of djembe-playing street performers. Back in China, Xie bought his first djembe in Lijiang and started to learn some basic techniques.



After searching the Internet for guidance, Xie found a professional drummer who learned to play djembe from African expats. Xie went to the teacher's 10 times before dropping out to start training himself at home.

While the Internet has a wealth of information for the aspiring djembe player, things are not that easy in China. Many of the articles and demonstration videos are on blocked websites like YouTube. Beijing drummers have set up their own network to pool their own resources such as CDs and DVDs purchased abroad.

"There are a few foreign players in our club who are very helpful. The djembe community in Beijing is pretty small, and we all have to work together to make it progress," Xie says.

Finding instruments early on was another problem. Xie's first djembe was only suitable for a beginner: he soon began searching for one with better sound quality and eventually imported one from Europe.

His current djembe is made by a master Senegalese craftsman who lives in Austria. The drums are

handmade and only 100 are produced each year.

"It costs a lot but was really worth the money. It's not just the sound: even its appearance is like art," Xie says. He also owns a didgeridoo, an Australian aboriginal wind instrument made from a whole piece of Zelkova. The instrument has a deep bass voice. Xie plays it with the other drummers in every show.

Importing was the only option until local drummers started the new drum brand Zebra. Unlike traditional African djembe, which are made of a whole piece of wood, Zebra uses an eco-friendly synthetic material to make the drum body.

"Mamady Keita, the world's top djembe drummer, has played our product and he likes it very much. Our next step is looking for a material to replace the traditional leather drum skin to lower the price. It may help get more people involved," Xie says.

Four months ago they established the studio and formed Xie's band. Its six members are professional drummers, media planners and artists. Their music absorbs elements from traditional West African percussion and Chinese folk music from Yunnan. They have written four original songs and plan to record a CD once they have 12 songs.

Besides the music, Xie and the other drummers have bigger plans for the club.

The studio also teaches juggling and tattoo design. Jiuji, one of the best mirror ball trick artists, is in charge of that section. It also sells original clothes based on traditional African design. Xie and his colleagues import the material from Africa and have local tailors design products.

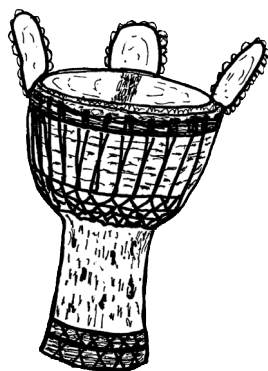
The band is currently accepting performance offers only reputable organizers to protect the integrity of the club's name.

"Events like Tedx Beijing and the Get It Louder exhibition in Sanlitun are good for the scene. Most participants in our club are office workers who are looking for an interesting and healthy hobby on the weekends. We are also planning to co-operate with some big commercial brands for promotional events. We get a lot of attention when we play djembe," Xie says.



Photo provided by Xie Yufei

Xie Yufei (second from bottom) established his studio with the help of other band members.



Djembe facts

According to the Bamana people in Mali, the name djembe comes directly from the local phrase "Anke dje, anke be," which is literally translated as "everyone gather together." It also defines the drummer's purpose.

Djembe are usually 30 centimeters across and 60 centimeters tall.

In a band, djembes are usually played with dundun, an African bass drum developed from the djembe. The relationship between the two drums is similar to the snare and pedal bass used in modern music.

Djembe are widely-used in modern music. It has been used in famous songs with a highly percussive rhythm section. Big-name acts such as The Beatles, Queens of the Stone Age, Paul Simon, Peter Gabriel and U2 have all played djembe in their recordings.

To learn djembe, a beginner needs private or small group lessons. Basic sounds and traditional rhythm – especially 4/4 time 12/8 time – should be mastered before the performer tries to advance. Djembe is easy to learn initially but takes years to master.

Buu Club

Where: 228, 1A, Jindi Mingjing, Jianguo Lu, Chaoyang District

Open: 11 am – 9 pm

Tel: 8572 3225

Scents for men and women



Diesel "only the brave" (650 yuan): new designer perfumes for men. Three different bottles – power and personality; confidence; victory – offer a masculine vibe.

By Annie Wei

For many Chinese, a bottle of 100-milliliter perfume can seemingly last forever. But it's boring to stick to the same scent. Updating your perfume or cologne collection can refresh the body and spirit.

Beijing Today checked out the latest scent products available at department stores.



Ester Launder, 680 yuan



Loewe (430 yuan for 30 milliliters) offers a unique and light scent of peony. It is feminine and elegant.



Lolita Lempicka (560 yuan) is colorful, girly and playful, with a romantic, strong French touch.



Chanel No 5 (900 yuan) is classics that is a can't-miss gift choice for women.



Acqua di Parma Christmas package (1,350 yuan): cologne, aftershave and shower gel or body lotion for the urban gentlemen.

Photos provided by Liang Liang

Shin Kong Plaza

Where: 87 Jianguo Lu, Chaoyang District

Open: 10 am – 10 pm

Tel: 6533 1380

NE•TIGER launches first Chinese luxury brand in Shanghai

November 6, 2010 – Top Chinese Luxury brand NE•TIGER launched a grand opening ceremony for its image store in Shanghai. The new store is located at Libao Square on Middle Huaihai Road, which has been around for more than 100 years, adjacent to international luxury brands Louis Vuitton and Zegna. The new store integrates top-grade with privacy, inner design with low-key, luxury with charm, which makes NE•TIGER full of unique oriental charm among top-grade international brands. Eastern primitive simplicity and aestheticism collide and fuse with Western simplicity and fashion. The outstanding magnificence of this international brand is on display.

On November 6, "Splendid Night in Shanghai – Tian Ren He Yi," the sky was illuminated by the opening ceremony of NE•TIGER Shanghai image store and social wine party. Stars like Yuqi Zhang, Yi Huang, Lan Qin, Siyan Huo, Xiaopin Yan, Chen Chen and elites from the commercial industry, cultural celebrities, famous socialites and famous models from both home and abroad came together and presented a grand ceremony with old Shanghai customs and habits. Dozens of Chinese top-level models demonstrated the latest luxuriance and fashion of NE•TIGER. Among the displays were "the Heavenly Stems and Earthly Branches" National Dress series that recently shocked China International Fashion Week. It perfectly annotates the brand's philosophy and ultimate pursuit of "Tian Ren He Yi" – being the No. 1 Chinese luxury brand.

As the top Chinese luxury brand, NE•TIGER commits itself to the inheritance and development of Huaxia. It has been looking for the intersection of traditional culture and modern apparel and accessories, making every effort to "mix ancient and modern, link up East and West." It is an international brand that aims for the high-end market.



NE•TIGER's founder (middle) with celebrities at a launch party in Shanghai

Photo provided by NE•TIGER

Confronted with the increasing Chinese luxury market, NE•TIGER has expanded. With keen insight, it has settled into the heart of this new international market.

Middle Huaihai Road has been considered the hub of high-end vogue. With the opening of a batch of international frontline brand flagships and concept stores such as Louis Vuitton, Zegna, TIFFANY and HERMÈS, Huaihai Road will be more prosperous.

Commercial Street on Middle Huaihai Road has undoubtedly become the "source of vogue." The launch of the customized luxury brand NE•TIGER has injected some Eastern flavor into a place dominated by Western luxury brands, filling a void and becoming a pioneer for the revival and rising of luxury brands with Chinese elements. It has also set a new benchmark for Chinese luxury products on Middle Huaihai Road.

Pampering your stomach with delicate foods for winter

By Annie Wei

Monday was *xiaoxue* – literally, “small snow” – a day on the lunar calendar in which the temperature is supposed to drop below freezing in conjunction with the season’s first flurries.

To ring in *xiaoxue* and counter the gloomy, cloudy days, people should eat happy foods like haw jelly, bitter melon (irony notwithstanding), carrots and energy-rich foods like lamb and beef. Also: nuts, stews and black-colored foods like fungus, sesame and black beans.

Beijing Today would like to offer a modern twist on the old tradition, with Chinese herb stews and teppanyaki. Here are some restaurants for staying warm and cozy.

Uama – all-you-can-eat seafood and steak

It’s generally acknowledged that there aren’t as many fancy restaurants in Haidian District as on the east side of town.

But Uama Teppanyaki is different. Its interior provides the perfect atmosphere for casual conversation or business occasions, and is located conveniently next to the Zhongguancun stop on subway Line 10.

Teppanyaki has become quite popular in Beijing recently, as people are attracted to the notion of watching chefs grill their food in front of them – and serve it fresh as it can be.

The restaurant has a wide variety of dishes. It mainly offers buffets from 158 to 288 yuan. The more expensive option includes fancy seafood selections, including sea urchins and lobster.

The 158-yuan menu includes fresh oysters with flavors of garlic, cheese, chili pepper and fermented soybeans. For roasted meat, we recommend steak, prepared with red wine; the preparation is especially fun to watch. The chefs are quite professional.

Do not order your beef well-done, as it will come out dry and hard. “Rare” is like medium here, as they are all cut into small pieces on the iron pan.

One downside about the restaurant is that it doesn’t have much of a beverage selection. But quantity makes up for lack of quality: peach juice, crab apple, kiwi fruits and sake are stocked in big jars, and diners can get as much as they want. The coffee tastes like instant coffee with too much sugar.

There is a trick to eating at a buffet: fill your stomach with fruits first, as they can be easily digested. Uama Teppanyaki offers free fresh fruits. Eat as much as you can while you wait for the cooks to fry up your order.

Uama Teppanyaki

Where: R24, Zhongguancun Buxingjie, 15, Zhongguancun Avenue, Haidian District

Open: 11:30 am – 2:30 pm, 5:30-10:30 pm

Tel: 5986 3691

Where: 108, The China View, 2 Gongti Dong Lu, Chaoyang District

Open: 11:30 am – 2:30 pm;

5:30-10:30 pm

Tel: 8587 1377



Teppanyaki diners get to watch chefs prepare their food in front of them.

Photo by Chen Ruibiao/CFP

Chynna – presenting different Chinese cuisines in unexpected ways

Hotel brunches are becoming more attractive to long-time residents who love good food, since their service and fare now compare favorably with the town’s specialized restaurants.

The restaurant Chynna at Wangfujing Hilton is recommended. It combines the aesthetics of the Qing (221-207 BC) and Tang (AD 618-907) dynasties to reflect its goal – to provide a royal taste in modern food.

Chef Zheng Yan, who has many years of experience in big hotels, said that making a good dish requires precision in every detail: from recipe to garnish.

Zheng created the menu for Chynna. He specializes in using new ingredients for original recipes so that many Chinese dishes are given a refreshing new flavor.

The most recommended dish for the season is stewed ocean fish head soup (488 yuan for six diners) with cordyceps and gastraodia tuber. Both the cordyceps and gastraodia tuber are rare and nutritious Chinese herbs. The clear soup is also stewed with healthy ingredients like red dates, ganoderma lucidum, Chinese wolfberry and ginseng.

For diners who like seafood, guo-qiaoyu (288 yuan) is a must-try: fresh fish and vegetables served with delicious fish broth.

Beijing Duck is also Chynna’s specialty (168 yuan). While Quanjude, the famous duck restaurant, is just a five-



Poached chicken with crushed peanuts sesame and spicy sauce, 22 yuan

minute walk away, Zheng’s duck compares favorably. It is roasted with ingredients like ginseng, angelica root and Chinese wolfberries.

Other recommended dishes include the roasted chicken, fried leeks and sea cucumber, and fried prawns with fruits and cheese. The special dessert is ice cream scented with Maotai or Wuliangye (68 yuan), two luxury brands of Chinese liquor. The ice cream itself is not alcoholic, but it gives off a strong aroma.

The restaurant employs an in-house tea master to introduce diners to different teas that are worth trying.

Dayu Teppanyaki

Located at Sanlitun Village, this is a clean and comfy dining spot.

Where: S2-32, Sanlitun Village,

19 Sanlitun Lu, Chaoyang District

Open: 11 am – 11 pm

Tel: 6416 8075

Cost: Buffets start from 198 yuan

Seijo Teppanyaki

It has quality beef and roasted eel.

Where: L21 Huamiao Zhongxin,

89 Jianguolu, Chaoyang District

Open: 11:30 am – 2:30 pm,

5:30-10 pm

Tel: 6533 1570

Cost: Average 280 yuan per person

Huadu Teppanyaki

Good environment.

Where: Floor 3, Kuntai Plaza, 12 Chaoyangmen Wai Dajie, Chaoyang District

Open: 11 am – 10 pm

Tel: 5879 7188

Cost: Average 202 yuan per person

Tiebanshao business club

A Chinese style teppanyaki restaurant with luxury decoration. It’s known for attracting stars and celebrities.

Where: 99 Fucheng Lu, Haidian District

Open: 11 am – 10 pm

Tel: 8815 5388

Cost: Average 650 yuan per person



Beijing Duck, 168 yuan

Chynna

Where: 5th floor, Wangfujing Hilton, 8 Wangfujing Avenue, Dongcheng District

Open: 11 am – 2:30 pm, 5:30-11 pm

Tel: 5812 8888 ext. 8411

Photos provided by Wangfujing Hilton

Five decades of South Korean cinema come to Beijing

By He Jianwei

In sharp contrast with the Chinese film market, South Korean moviegoers prefer spending money at theaters for domestic films instead of international ones. South Korean movies have not only dominated box office earnings, but they've also won several international awards in the past 50 years.

Starting today, the Korean Film Council will present 20 movies by 20 directors at Broadway Cinematheque. Most of the films are being screened in Beijing for the first time.

South Korea's movie industry gained international renown when its art films began winning awards at high-profile film festivals. Fittingly, the opening and closing films presented by the Korean Film Council are art flicks from famous directors.

The opening film is *One Fine Spring Day*, by Heo Jin-ho, who has been prestigious ever since his debut movie, *Christmas in August*, which was considered a masterpiece of the romance genre.

One Fine Spring Day is his

second feature romance, made in 2001, portraying a love affair that began one spring and declined exactly a year later.

Although not a commercial success, critics raved about the film's cinematography, particularly its long takes.

The closing film is Kim Ki-duk's

Spring, Summer, Fall, Winter... and Spring.

Kim portrays the joy,

anger, sorrow and pleasure of people's lives through four seasons and through the life of a Buddhist monk who lives in a temple floating on a lake in a pristine forest.

Kim's movies are frequent entries at international festivals, such as the Berlin International Film Festival and Venice Film Festival.

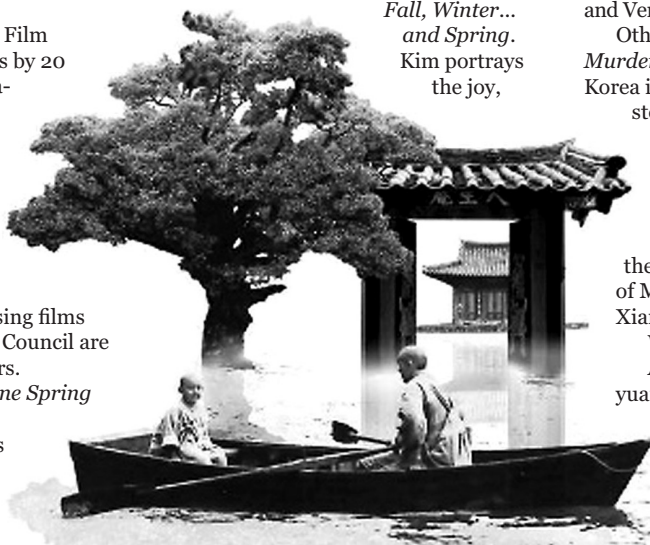
Other selections include *Memories of Murder* – the most-watched movie in Korea in 2003 – which is based off a true story about a series of murders that occurred in the country between 1986 and 1991.

South Korean Movie Showcase

Where: Broadway Cinematheque, 2/F Building 4, north section of Museum of Modern Art (MOMA), 1 Xiangheyuan Lu, Dongcheng District
When: November 26 – December 5
Admission: 40 yuan per film, 30 yuan for students

Tel: 8438 8258 ext. 8008

For the programs: b-cinema.cn



5 Friday, November 26

Exhibition Collage of Memories – Korean Contemporary Art

Ten Korean artists show their understanding of media, history, culture, globalization and identity.

Where: Soka Art Center, 798 Art District, 2 Jiuxianqiao Lu, Chaoyang District

When: Until January 2, daily except Monday, 11 am – 6 pm

Admission: Free
Tel: 5978 4808

Movie



Millennium Actress (2001)

This animated Japanese movie is the story of a director, Genya Tachibana, who makes a documentary about a famous

actress, Chiyoko Fujiwara, who has been withdrawn from public life for 30 years.

Where: China Film Archive, 3 Wenhuiyuan Lu, Xiaoxitian, Haidian District
When: 7 pm
Admission: 20 yuan
Tel: 8229 6153

Nightlife Chasing Stars

Featuring the vocals of actress Guo Keyu with electronics and bass by veteran player Ou Yang, Chasing Stars is an electro pop band.

Where: Yugongyishan, 3-2 Zhangzizhong Lu, Dongcheng District

When: 9 pm
Admission: 40 yuan advance purchase, 60 yuan at the door
Tel: 6404 2711



6 Saturday, November 27

Exhibition Lightscape – Yang Yong Solo Exhibition

Yang's installation of 200 hanging lamps reflects contemporary obsession with global media.

Where: Ullens Center for Contemporary Art (UCCA), 798 Art District, 4 Jiuxianqiao Lu, Chaoyang District

When: Until January 9, daily except Monday, 10 am – 6 pm

Admission: 15 yuan, 10 yuan for students, free on Thursdays

Tel: 8459 9269

Movie



Kont Diga (I Was, Already) (2009)

Karl returns to Malta after many years abroad and seeks a connection to his roots. But he realizes he is no longer the person he once was and wonders whether he

can truly return to the place he used to call home.

Where: French Cultural Center, 1/F, Guangcai International Mansion, 18 Gongti Xi Lu, Chaoyang District

When: 3 pm

Admission: Free
Tel: 6553 2627

Nightlife Reflector

Founded in 1997, this funk rock band released its latest album, *Explain You*, in April.

Where: Mao Livehouse, 111 Gulou Dong Dajie, Dongcheng District

When: 9 pm

Admission: 60 yuan advance purchase, 80 yuan at the door

Tel: 6402 5080



Sunday, November 28

Exhibition Liu Ding's Store – Liu Ding Solo Exhibition

The artist uses a model shop to establish a platform for thinking and discussing what really matters in a consumer society.

Where: Galerie Urs Meile, 104 Caochangdi Village, Cuigezhuang, Chaoyang District

When: Until January 24,

daily except Monday, 11 am – 6 pm

Admission: Free
Tel: 6433 3393

Movie The Longwang Chronicles (2007)

Director Li Yifan spent two years chronicling Chinese small-town life in Longwang Village, a southwestern village in the Three Gorges Dam region.

Where: Ullens Center for Contemporary Art (UCCA), 798

Art District, 4 Jiuxianqiao Lu, Chaoyang District

When: 7 pm

Admission: 15 yuan, 10 yuan for students

Tel: 8459 9269

Nightlife The Village

This drama is about the people who built temporary villages in Taiwan 60 years ago after Kuomintang soldiers and their families fled there following Chiang Kai-shek's defeat on

the mainland.

Where: Poly Theater, 14 Dongzhimen Nan Dajie, Dongcheng District

When: 7:30 pm

Admission: 100-1,280 yuan
Tel: 6551 8058



Upcoming

Nightlife Das Racist

This rap group based in Brooklyn is known for its use of humor and has just released its 2010 mix tapes, *Shut Up, Dude* and *Sit Down, Man*.

Where: Yugongyishan, 3-2 Zhangzizhong Lu, Dongcheng District

When: November 30, 9 pm

Admission: 50 yuan advance purchase, 80 yuan at the door
Tel: 6404 2711

Stage in December

Concert

Fou Ts'ong Piano Recital

Where: Concert Hall of the National Center for the Performing Arts, 2 Xi Chang'an Jie, Xicheng District

When: December 4, 7:30 pm

Admission: 100-600 yuan
Tel: 6655 0000

Maksim Mrvica Piano Recital

Where: Beijing Exhibition Center Theater, 135 Xizhimen Wai Dajie, Xicheng District

When: December 4, 7:30 pm

Admission: 100-1,500 yuan
Tel: 5129 7260

Wolfram Schmitt-Leonardy Piano Recital

Where: Forbidden City Concert Hall (inside Zhongshan Park), 18 Zhaodengyu Lu, Xicheng District

When: December 12, 7:30 pm

Admission: 30-380 yuan
Tel: 6417 7845

New Year Concert by Wiener Johann Strauss Walzer Orchestra

Where: Center Theater, 40 Liangmaqiao Lu, Chaoyang District

When: December 29-30,

7:30 pm

Admission: 180-880 yuan
Tel: 6462 8470

Dance

Swan Lake

Where: Opera House of the National Center for the Performing Arts, 2 Xi Chang'an Jie, Xicheng District

When: December 9-12, 7:30 pm

Admission: 180-680 yuan
Tel: 6655 0000

Drama

Jane Eyre

Where: Theater Hall of the National Center for the Performing Arts, 2 Xi Chang'an Jie, Xicheng District

When: December 9-23,

7:30 pm

Admission: 180-580 yuan
Tel: 6655 0000

Grand Expectations

Where: Poly Theater, 14 Dongzhimen Nan Dajie, Dongcheng District

When: December 16-19,

7:30 pm

Admission: 100-880 yuan
Tel: 6551 8058

Opera

Farewell to Cambridge

Where: Multi-functional Theater of the National Center for the Performing Arts, 2 Xi Chang'an Jie, Xicheng District

When: December 15-19, 7:30 pm

Admission: 200-320 yuan
Tel: 6655 0000

(By He Jianwei)

Seal out winter from your skin

By Li Zhixin

As the temperature dips and the air dries, many Beijingers will be once again learning to cope with rough and scaly skin. While most people habitually try every means possible to protect their face, they tend to attach less importance to other areas. Unfortunately, skin problems are not exclusive to the face in winter.

Peeling and cracking

Zhang Qing, 36, a housewife, recently found several cracks spreading across the skin of her hands. The deep lines have made contact with water painful.

As a homemaker, she often neglects to take care of her hands after doing the dishes or the laundry. The harsh soaps she uses have caused her hands to dry considerably — especially since she goes out running every morning when temperatures are their coldest.

Recently she was unwilling to cook for her husband and son because the pain involved in washing vegetables and dishes was too much of a deterrent. For most of the week she pur-

chased carry-out dinners.

Wang Haonan, 28, a salesman, suffers from the same problem with deep cracks on his feet.

He often soaks his feet in hot water after work to relieve stress, but he never applies moisturizer after the bath. During the past week, the skin of his feet has been splitting open. One day of extreme activity caused his feet to bleed.

"It affects my daily work. The longer I walk the more it hurts," he said.

In general, chapped hands and feet in winter are a result of reduced moisture in the skin, said Zhang Xiuying, a dermatologist at Beijing

Chaoyang Hospital. "The top layers of our skin can retain a regular amount of water, but constant exposure to dry conditions can make the skin hard and susceptible to cracking," she said.

As small cracks deepen and split, the hands and feet can begin bleeding. People of all ages can develop such dry skin, but it is seen most often in people with chronic dryness problems.

"If your hands or feet do begin to bleed, you will have to use topical ointments to help the skin become more elastic so it can mend. Left untreated, the cracks can become infected," she said.

Tips

If you are prone to dry skin in winter, take the following precautions before cracking occurs:

1. Wear protective clothing, gloves and scarves to shield your skin from frigid temperatures. Stick to cotton, silk or other soft and smooth fabrics to protect your skin from aggravating fibers.

2. Use a humidifier regularly to restore moisture to the air in your home.

3. Avoid using antibacterial gels and stay away from hot water when cleaning your hands.

4. Be sure to apply a rich moisturizing lotion that contains ingredients like glycerin that help hold moisture in your skin and pay special attention to your hands, feet, elbows and knees.

5. Try to shower or bathe in warm water and limit your showers or baths to 10 minutes. Don't rub the dry skin with a towel. Apply a rich body lotion immediately after showering to lock in moisture. Apply again before going outside.

6. You also need therapeutic moisturizers for healing as they can create a barrier between the skin and the dry environment while healing the skin on a deeper level. Try a therapeutic moisturizer containing one or more of these ingredients: aloe, shea butter, lavender, chamomile, Vitamin D or Vitamin E.

7. Eat foods that contain fats, especially omega-3 fatty acids, to replenish your skin's natural fats and keep it smooth and supple. Make sure your diet includes foods like salmon, sardines or mackerel. Tofu, walnuts, flaxseeds, soybeans and orange juice are also good choices.

Signs and symptoms

Although dry hand and feet are usually ignored until they become painful, they can be treated without pain if caught early on.

1. Roughness. You may feel bumps on the surface of your skin or grooves along its natural creases.

2. Dryness. Scaly-looking or flaking skin is a sign of dryness; it can persist even after you apply lotions or creams.

3. Redness. Before skin cracks and bleeds, it will appear pink or red.

4. Sensitivity. Red patches may be sensitive to the touch. Wearing clothing or doing the smallest task will be uncomfortable in the early stages of cracking.

Causes of dry skin

The best way to fight dry skin is to know what causes it.

1. Exposure to cold weather. Dry skin is especially common in the winter as humidity levels plummet. When the air is cold and dry, the water in your skin evaporates quickly. "In fact, your skin loses more than 25 percent of its ability to hold moisture in the winter," Zhang said.

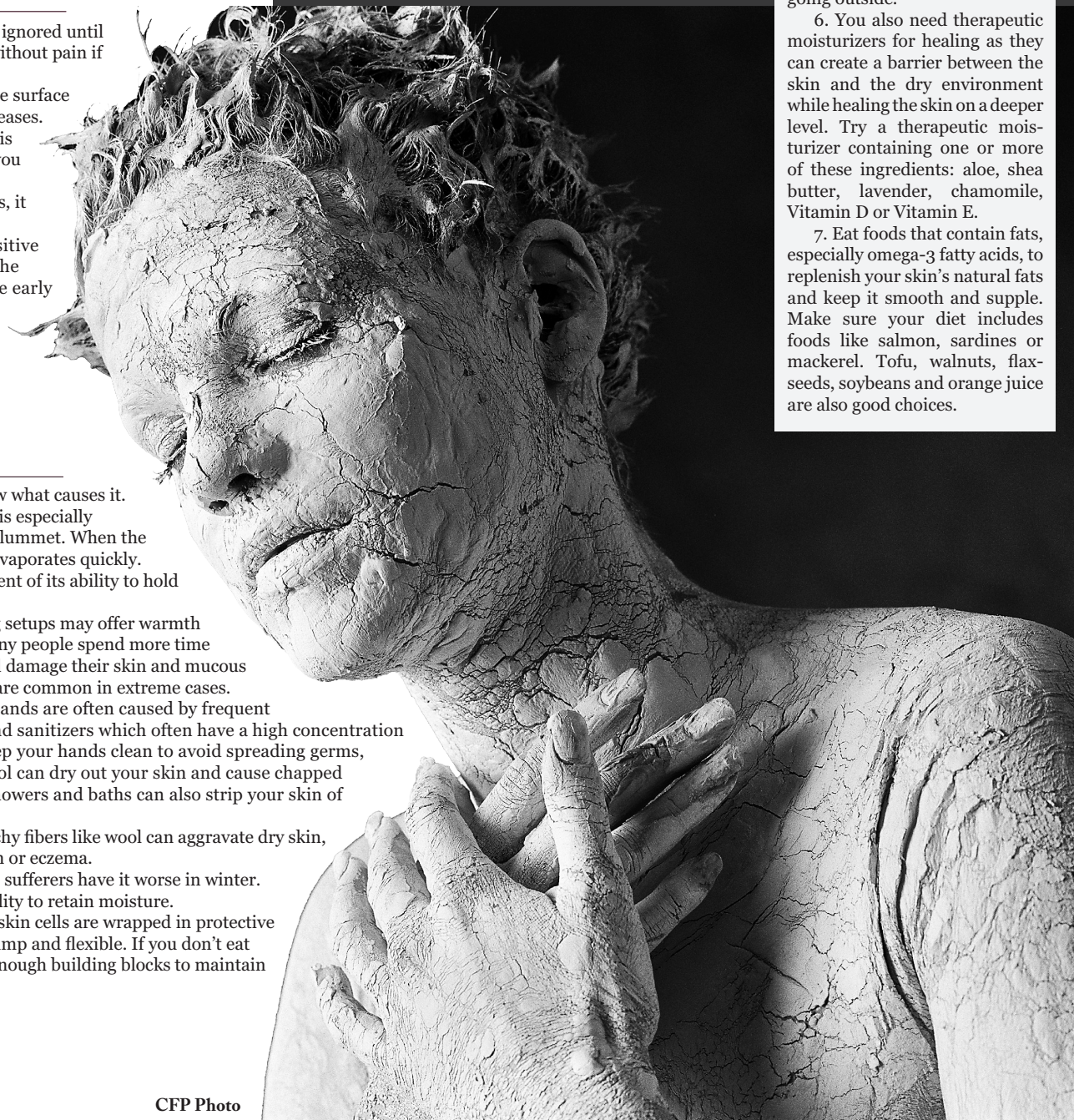
2. Exposure to heated rooms. Heating setups may offer warmth indoors, but they also dry out the skin. Many people spend more time indoors in the winter where the dry air will damage their skin and mucous membranes. Nosebleeds and sore throats are common in extreme cases.

3. Washing too often. Dry and rough hands are often caused by frequent hand washing, as well as by the use of hand sanitizers which often have a high concentration of alcohol. "Although it's important to keep your hands clean to avoid spreading germs, the exposure to soap and water and alcohol can dry out your skin and cause chapped hands, splits and cracks," she said. Hot showers and baths can also strip your skin of natural oils.

4. Wearing the wrong clothing. Scratchy fibers like wool can aggravate dry skin, especially for those who have sensitive skin or eczema.

5. Skin disorders. Eczema and psoriasis sufferers have it worse in winter. These skin disorders weaken the skin's ability to retain moisture.

6. Insufficient fatty acid intake. Your skin cells are wrapped in protective bubbles of fat that help keep them soft, plump and flexible. If you don't eat enough fatty acids, your body won't have enough building blocks to maintain this protective wrap.



CFP Photo

A rockery tour to Pinggu



Jinhai stone, a kind of river gravel, has beautiful patterns like Chinese ink wash painting.



Stone collectors water the Jinhai stones to make the special ones stand out.



Good Jinhai stones have a clear and exquisite texture with a soft color.



Nandulehe Village is an ideal place for stone collectors to search for Jinhai stones.

By Zhang Dongya

Winter usually takes a bite out of outdoor tourism, but one place it doesn't affect is Pinggu, dubbed the "home-town of ornamental stones."

Located in northeast Beijing, Pinggu sees stone enthusiasts come year-round to collect beautiful stones in the valleys nearby.

In September, a "stone town" was opened in Pinggu as a hub for stone trade. In the market, visitors can see unique stones and learn about the history and culture behind them.

Rich in mountains and stones

Most visitors go to Pinggu for its large peach orchards, but two-thirds of the district is covered with mountains, which are rich with stones, especially peculiar ones. Some resemble mountain peaks, while others are in the shape of people and animals.

There are three types of special stones in Beijing: Jinhai, Xuanyuan and moire. The first two are native to Pinggu, and the third is found on Yanshan Mountain on the border of Fangshan District and Laishui County, Hebei Province.

Jinhai stone, a kind of river gravel, is named after Jinhai Lake in eastern Pinggu. It is unique in its various patterns: mountain, river, lake, forest. It has a delicate texture and complex arrangement, reflecting the natural beauty of southern China.

Xuanyuan stone, distributed in the northern mountains of Pinggu, is named after Xuanyuan Mausoleum in the mountains. Xuanyuan stone is hard in nature, which conveys a sense of northern masculinity.

Xuanyuan and Jinhai have achieved national recognition in stone exhibitions held in Shanghai and Nanjing, Jiangsu Province.

Jinhai stone in Nandulehe Village

Jinhai stone is mainly produced in Jinhai Lake between Nandulehe Village and Zhangxinhuang Village in Pinggu. Formed out of magma and the long process of erosion, it has taken on an intricate arrangement in various colors: yellowish-brown, dark red, dark brown and reddish purple.

Nandulehe Village is an ideal place for stone collectors because of the gravel mountains around the village. Visitors will pass bare poplar trees on the way to Nandulehe, and from there see several gravel mountains 100 meters high.

The stones here have been heavily oxidized. Some enthusiasts like to polish their treasures so that their texture and pattern become apparent.

Jinhai stones have a clear and exquisite texture with soft color.

Since Jinhai stones are born in the riverbed, they prefer a wet environment. They gain a sheen when submerged.

Stone collectors and locals choose rainy days to search for unique stones. On sunny days, they carry canteens of water and water the stones, which make the special ones stand out.

Xuanyuan stone in Yangjiahui Village

Xuanyuan stones are rare. Wang Yong, president of the Pinggu Peculiar Stone Society, said Xuanyuan stones can be found only on the hills north of Donggu Village and on a hill in Yangjiahui Village.

Continued on page 21...



Gravel mountains around Nandulehe Village attract many stone collectors.

Photos by Yin Yafei



Giant brown Xuanyuan stones stand in the fields near Yangjiahui Village.

Photos by Yin Yafei



Peculiar Stone City was opened in Pinggu for stone trade and communication.



Larger Xuanyuan stones are usually used as landscape in gardens.



Xuanyuan stones come out looking more like unearthed antiques with dirt on their surface.

...continued from page 20

The stones have supposedly been buried for billions of years. They were uncovered by people only in the last few decades. One of the first to discover them was Zhang Shuming, a potted landscaper who happened upon the stone in the 1980s.

He often went to northern Pinggu to search for stones. Once, he dug out a dark brown piece with deep grooves on its surface. He dug deeper and found a special batch, and delighted in proving wrong the commonly accepted notion that "there are no peculiar stones in northern China."

In Yangjiahui Village, one can see these giant brown Xuanyuan stones. They look rusted, with lots of folds and holes, comparable with the Taihu stone in Jiangsu Province. Hit it with a wooden stick and the stone produces a clear and crisp sound.

Xuanyuan comes out looking more like unearthed antiques. Locals say that emperors in ancient times spent large amounts of money transporting Taihu stones from the south to Beijing, unaware that similar stones were buried beneath their feet in Pinggu.

Visitors who want to collect Xuanyuan should negotiate with the land's owner first.

Larger Xuanyuan stones are used in landscaping, while smaller ones are collected by stone lovers. There have been only about 1,000 pieces of Xuanyuan stone that have been unearthed, with only 100 listed as top quality.

"Top Xuanyuan stones should have retained their original shape, with an attractive appearance and balanced texture," said Wang, who has collected and quarried stones for more than 20 years in Pinggu.

A hub for Pinggu's stones

In the east of Pinggu District is Peculiar Stone City, opened in September. It now houses more than 40 stores selling stones, calligraphy, antiques, Chinese traditional musical instruments and folk handicrafts.

The main building is covered with glass, making it warm as a greenhouse. Decorated with rocks and bamboo, it looks like a small garden straight from southern China.

Inside the town is a small museum of peculiar stones from Pinggu. It includes Jinhai and Xuanyuan stones collected by members of the Pinggu Peculiar Stone Society.

The society, founded in August, has more than 100 members. It has donated about 80 pieces to the museum.

The Society's president, Wang, said they were going to hold a nationwide exhibition for peculiar stones next April, which will showcase stones from other regions as well. The stone exhibition will cooperate with the annual Pinggu Peach Festival to attract more visitors.



Xuanyuan stones look rusted, with lots of folds and holes.



Visitors can see peculiar stones from Pinggu at a small museum in the Stone City.

Getting to Pinggu: Drive along Beijing-Pinggu Expressway and get on Xihuan Nan Lu from the Pingsan Lu exit. Drive along Xihuan Nan Lu, Xiping Nan Lu and Xiping Bei Lu to Xiayu Lu. Go along Xiayu Lu to Pinggu District. Or take Bus 918 to the Pinggu Dashichang stop. Walk to Dashichang Beikou and transfer to Bus Pinggu 25 to the Shandongzhuang stop.

Dining



Christmas Eve dinner

Indulge in a Christmas Eve of international delicacies at Aroma. All diners will receive one complimentary drink at the Ritz Carlton Bar and free entry in a prize raffle.

Where: The Ritz-Carlton Beijing, 83A Jianguo Lu, Chaoyang District

When: December 24, 6-10 pm

Cost: 988 yuan with free soft drinks, juice, local beer and house wine; 1,188 yuan with free soft drinks, juice, house wine and champagne

Tel: 5908 8958



Gala dinner

Enjoy an amazing performance, exciting raffle and Christmas gifts for all. The evening's buffet will include festive specialties from all over the world. The restaurant will be serving French wine, international beer, soft drinks and juice throughout the evening.

Where: Sofitel Wanda Beijing, 93 Jianguo Lu, Chaoyang District

When: December 24, 6:30-10 pm

Cost: 3,388 yuan (Diamond), 2,988 (Platinum), 2,688 (Gold)

Tel: 8599 6666

Ski Resort

Huaibei International Ski Resort

Located at Jiugukou natural reserve in Huairou District, Beijing Huaibei International Ski Resort has three cable lifts, six drag lifts, one magic carpet, one snow tubing run and seven ski runs for beginners through experts.

Huaibei is one of the largest outdoor sport and self-driving base camps in Beijing. It operates throughout the year and has skiing, ice climbing, rock climbing, field survival training, professional development training, orienteering, Great Wall hiking, paintball and fishing.

The resort uses a snow machine from Europe and its guidance systems meet European standards.

Where: 548 Hefangkou Cun, Huaibei Zhen, Huairou District

Open: 8:30 am – 5:30 pm, 5:30-9:30 pm

Cost: 150 yuan per two hours (weekends), 160 yuan per two hours (holiday)

Tel: 8969 6677

Web: hbski.com

Yuyang International Ski Resort

Beijing Yuyang International Ski Resort is located in Qinglongshan, Pinggu District. It has 12 high-tech snowmakers and two snow groomers. Its seven runs are divided up for beginners, intermediate and advanced skiers. It also has two sledding trails, one motorcycle trail and one snow park with boarder crossing and wave slopes. The ski rental hall has 7,000 sets of equipment and 6,000 ski suits, 600 of which are for children.

Where: 688 Dawangwu Cun, Donggaocun Zhen, Pinggu District

Open: 8:30 am – 5:30 pm, 5:30-10 pm

Cost: 100 yuan two hours (weekend), 120 yuan two hours (holiday)

Tel: 5869 3355 or 6990 8855

Web: yuyangski.com.cn

Nanshan Ski Resort

Beijing Nanshan Ski Resort is located in Miyun, some 62 kilometers from Wanghe Bridge in Beijing. The resort has 7,000 sets of ski equipment, 21 ski runs for beginners to experts, a large-scale snow park and a brand-new off piste tree run. Its quality snowmaking equipment and three groomers assure the runs are always in perfect condition. Two high speed quads, one two-man chair lift, 13 tow ropes and platter lifts give the resort a lift capacity of 8,960 skiers and snow-boarders per hour.

Where: Shengshuitou Cun, Henanzhai Zhen, Miyun Country

Open: 9 am – 5:30 pm

Cost: 150 yuan two hours (weekend), 160 yuan two hours (holiday)

Tel: 8909 1909

Web: nanshanski.com

Jundushan Ski Resort

Beijing Jundushan Ski Resort is located in the famous hot spring vacation areas of Changping Xiaotangshan. The resort offers 15 hectares of artificial snow. Its two intermediate runs are nearly 1,000 meters long with 20 gradients; the advanced run has a relative drop height of 247 meters, a length of 1,200 meters and a gradient of 40 percent at its steepest. The two elevated passenger ropeways, one ski carpet, eight surface lifts and 3,100 sets of imported ski appliances can support 6,000 skiers per day.

Where: 588 Zhenshun Cun, Cuicun Zhen, Changping District

Open: 8 am – 6 pm, 5-10 pm

Cost: 150 yuan two hours (weekend), 160 yuan two hours (holiday)

Tel: 6072 5888

Web: bjski.com.cn

Lianhuashan Ski Resort

This ski resort is one of Beijing's largest. It is 30 kilometers from the Capital International Airport and half a kilometer from the Bus 918 Liangshan stop on Shunping Highway. It has seven runs, five drag lifts and one glider cableway with a four-person chairlift.

Where: 288 Liangshan Dong Lu, Zhang Zhen, Shunyi District

Open: 8:30 am – 5 pm, 6-10 pm

Cost: 140 yuan two hours (weekend), 160 yuan two hours (holiday)

Tel: 6148 8111 or 6148 8222

Web: bjlhsski.com

Badaling Ski Resort

This resort is near the west end of the Badaling Great Wall. It is home to the capital's longest motorcycle run and has two 800-meter-long primary runs, one 600-meter-long intermediate run, one 800-meter-long advanced run with a drop height of 160 meters and two flying disk runs. Enjoy the beautiful scenery and other entertainment options like dog sledding, bungee jumping, snow saunas and DIY ice sculpting.

Where: 66 Badaling Development Zone, Badaling Zhen, Yanqing Country

Open: 8:30 am – 5 pm, 6-10 pm

Cost: 100 yuan two hours (weekend), 120 yuan two hours (holiday)

Tel: 6912 9922 or 9966

Web: bdlskiing.com

Shijinglong Ski Resort

Beijing Shijinglong Ski Resort is about 80 kilometers from Beijing and can accommodate 5,000 skiers. Its seven ski runs total 5,000 meters. Experts can try the advanced run which has a vertical drop of 300 meters. Intermediate skiers can try the 28-degree chute. The resort also offers great learning terrain and 5,000 sets of equipment. Meanwhile, the newly added Snow Board

Hotel

Shangri-La Hotels Paris grand opening

Shangri-La Hotels and Resorts is opening Shangri-La Hotel, Paris in the French capital's 16th arrondissement on December 17. The hotel is the group's first property in Europe. Originally built in 1896 as the private home of Emperor Napoleon Bonaparte's grand-nephew, Prince Roland Bonaparte, the Paris location balances Shangri-La's signature hospitality and French art de vivre.

The restored landmark has 81 rooms, including 27 suites, making it the most intimate of all Shangri-La Hotels worldwide. Interior designer Pierre-Yves Rochon crafted each room to preserve its original residential ambience while adding modern comforts. Accommodations include five duplex suites; the Suite Imperiale, which originally housed Prince Roland's private room, and the penthouse Suite Panomarique. More than 40 percent of the rooms and 60 percent of the suites have unobstructed views of the Eiffel Tower and the River Seine.

Paradise is available for boarding fans. A snow sauna and hot spring bath can help ease the day's exhaustion.

Where: Zhongyangfang Cun, Zhangshanying Zhen, Yanqing Country

Open: 8 am – 5 pm

Cost: 120 yuan four hours (weekend), two hours (holiday)

Tel: 6919 9043

Web: sjlski.com

Yunfoshan Ski Resort

Beijing Yunfoshan Ski Resort is surrounded by mountains. There is one expert ski run, three intermediate runs, four primary runs, one motorcycle run and one cross-country trail for snowmobiles. The resort has 10 high-tech snowmakers, two snow-groomers, two cableways, nine drag lifts and four ropeways. The advanced sightseeing cable cars can move 3,500 passengers per hour and the rental hall has equipment for 3,000 skiers. Sleighs and dog sleds are available this winter.

Where: Xiwengzhuang Zhen, Miyun Country

Open: 8:30 am – 5 pm

Cost: 140 yuan two hours (weekend & holiday)

Tel: 8903 2601 or 2602

Web: yunfoshan.com

Snow World Ski Resort

Located in the Thirteen Tombs Scenic Area, Beijing Snow World Ski Resort is one of the nearest ski resorts to downtown Beijing. It has six ski runs, including one single board track, and can accommodate 1,800 skiers. Its primary and intermediate runs are designed to enable skiers to progress while having fun. The advanced runs allow experts to practice their skills. The large-scale snow ground is a paradise for kids who want to have a snowball fight or make a snowman.

Where: Xiaogongmen Cun, Shisanling Zhen, Changping District

Open: 8:30 am – 5 pm

Cost: 140 yuan two hours (weekend)

Tel: 8976 1886 or 1889

Web: bxjueshijie.com

Yunju Ski Resort

Beijing Yunju Ski Resort is 60 kilometers out of the city and has eight ski runs for skiers of different levels. The Chuyun and Feixian meet the domestic standards for senior ski runs with a total length of 1,600 meters and peak gradient of 25 degree. The resort is equipped with two four-seated ropeways, six drag lifts and 2,500 sets of new equipment.

Where: Caijiakou Cun, Zhangfang Zhen, Fangshan District

Open: 8:30 am – 5 pm

Cost: 140 yuan two hours (weekend), 160 yuan two hours (holiday)

Tel: 6138 9800 or 6133 8589

Web: yjski.com

(By Sun Feng)

Chinglish story

This column focuses on Chinglish mistakes in our daily life. If you have any experiences to share, send them to Wang Yu at wangyu2008@ynet.com.

Do it by the eleventh hour

By Zhang Dongya

Mandy, 19, is my cousin. She took the college entrance exam over the summer and got into her first choice, a university in Tianjin.

The girl is smart and good at mathematics, but she lacks confidence in English.

Midterms are this month, and the grades from her first-year courses are coming in. She is anxious about how she's doing in her English course, and keeps calling me to talk about it. I try my best to comfort her while urging her to study harder.

Last week, she did not call me. When I called to get an update, she told me a story about a mistake that got her into a mess.

I found the story both funny and annoying.

Mandy missed the deadline for an English-language paper for a course in British and American culture and society. She called the teacher – a strict British man – to ask for a two-day extension. The teacher agreed, adding, "Remember to turn in the report at the eleventh hour."

Mandy was so nervous that she misunderstood the teacher's words. "I thought he was only giving me one day, until the next evening," she said.

She hurriedly sent the report to the teacher the next day at 2 am with an apology letter saying she tried but could not get it by the 11 pm deadline.

The teacher was puzzled and replied, "Isn't the deadline two days later? You asked for it on the phone."

After several emails with the teacher, Mandy learned it was because she misunderstood "eleventh hour," which actually means "the latest possible moment," not a specific time.

I told Mandy that I was unaware of the phrase's meaning as well. "The point is, you should meet the original deadline, and don't be afraid to look up what you don't know," I said.

Fortunately, Mandy got a B on the paper.



CFP Photo

Chinglish on the way

This column aims to identify Chinglish in public areas. If you see any Chinglish signs, please send a picture of it to wangyu2008@ynet.com together with your name and address.

Reserved Seating for Persons with Special Abilities



By Terry Boyd-Zhang

Yikes. In Canada, someone would get the pants sued off him for this sign. *Canji*, the first two characters, mean "disability." The middle character, *ren*, means person. *Zhuan* means something like "to concentrate, to dominate, or special," and the last character can mean "location, posi-

tion." The idea of *zhuanwei* is "specific position," so – "area reserved for people with disabilities."

To be honest, I am not entirely sure what the politically correct language is right now. There was a time when "disabled person" was faux pas. But judging from the 2010 Vancouver Olympics, "disabled person" is

OK again. We prefer to use terms such as "physically challenged," emphasizing "ability" and who the person is despite physical difficulties.

Take Sam Sullivan, for example. "Citizen Sam" is a long-time Vancouver resident who was elected to the Vancouver City Council in 1993 and served as mayor from 2005 to 2008. He speaks basic Cantonese and can read some Chinese as well. He is a member of the Order of Canada, was inducted into the Terry Fox Hall of Fame and acted as Canada's ambassador to the 2010 Paralympic Games. By the way, he's a quadriplegic.

Let's not forget that we are all "deformed" in some ways. Just for some of us, our deformities are more obvious and we can use an "end place" to help us along sometimes.

Blacklist

This is a column of words or phrases commonly misused by Chinese speakers. If you're planning to be an English teacher, reporter or employee of a multinational company, then watch out for this page each week

1. There are 6 million public relations agencies operate through the Internet.

Professor Zhu Shida (ZS): This involves a structural error. The main clause is "There are 6 million public relations agencies." How can another verb follow it? Obviously it is wrong. "Operate through the Internet" is a subordinate clause that modifies "agencies." Since it is a subordinate clause, you have to say: There are 6 million public relations agencies that operate through the Internet. Here, the conjunction "that" is very important. It links up the main and the subordinate clause and is precisely where beginners may err. It can also be said in this way: There are six million public relations agencies operating through the Internet.

Terry Boyd-Zhang (TBZ): Clauses are a complicated business, and English has all sorts of clauses, the "subordinate clause" being only one of many. Keep your eye on the main clause; therefore, "agencies (which ones?) that operate ..." Alternatively, mentally switch the main clause around: "agencies are operating" is correct.

2. Come see what the 13 villages can offer.

ZS: My American friends will say, "What's wrong with this? It is perfectly correct!" It is true that people in daily life do speak this way. I think it is all right for daily informal conversation, but it is not for academic or journalistic English. When people wish to express this idea, they have to say: Come and see what the 13 villages can offer. Would you say: Go see if the bus has arrived? Probably this is better: Please go and see if the bus has arrived. Please go and check whether the door is properly locked. In English, there are a combination of words "come-and-go" as a noun or an adjective.

TBZ: Now, I myself don't use the expression "come-and-go" (but I do use the expression "I myself," which comes from learning enough French to pass the test but not enough to work for the government). However, I do think Professor Zhu is correct that "come see" is for casual spoken English – and evolution, so to speak, of "come and see" to "come'n' see" to, finally, "come see." Where I come from we also say: "have a look see." I doubt your IELTS examiner will accept that!

3. He brims with energy.

ZS: A few days ago, I had a discussion with a friend of mine about whether it is right to say: He brims over with energy. As we know, "to brim" may be a transitive or an intransitive verb, meaning "to be full to the brim or to fill to the brim." For instance, You have filled my glass to the brim. When she was attending the commencement, she was brimming with the hope of a wonderful career. The pond is brimming with water after the heavy rain. When he learned that his son had failed his final examination, his voice brimmed with anger. However, it is also correct to say, He brims over with energy. It means "to spill; overflow." It only indicates the degree of fullness. So, we would be right to say, The table tennis player brims over with vim and vigor while executing his deadly loop drives across the table. The marathoner still brimmed over with vitality as he entered the stadium in the last stretch of the race.

TBZ: On a similar note, the pot of noodles can "bubble over" if the fire is too high, just as you can "bubble over with excitement" in anticipation of your birthday. The noodle-water can "boil over" before supper is burned and you can "boil with anger" against the person who left the pot for you to scrub.



The A-Team (2010)

Movie of the week

The A-Team is adapted from the '80s TV series of the same name. Like similar movies, it is a combination of machismo, blood, gunshots and humor: basically, the elements that make any action movie worth watching.

Liam Neeson and Bradley Cooper star in the cast. It is always difficult to give a soul to characters lifted from another medium and dropped into a movie, but they did a great job matching the TV roles.

Synopsis

Four American soldiers are sent on a mission to Iraq to recover plates used for printing 100 dollar bills. They finish the job, but when they return to base their commanding officer is killed by an explosion. The team is framed and the plates are stolen by another operative.

After six months in prison, leader Hannibal Smith breaks out with the help of a CIA spook. The agent gives Smith information about the plates and helps him break his soldiers out of prison to continue the mission.

With the military on their tail, the team has to find out who is behind the plot.

Scene 1

(Hannibal, Gen. Morrison and agent Lynch talk about their mission while on the base.)

Gen. Morrison (M): Hannibal, what do you want me to do? If this were my operation and you wanted it, you would have the mission.

Hannibal (H): You let Black Forest deploy on this, and it's an international incident, I promise you. They're not soldiers. They're frat boys with trigger fingers. Who's running the ground team?

M: Brock Pike.

(Hannibal laughing)

H: Pike. He's a **thug (1)**. He's a cartoon character. Come on.

M: Hannibal, we have been ordered, ordered, mind you, to stay out of Baghdad. Cut, dried, the end.

Lynch (L): General, we should find him a little **wiggle room (2)**, don't you think?

M: You know, I knew another Lynch, a CIA stooge. Stationed in Laos, '68.

L: No relation.

M: Are you sure? 'Cause you remind me of him.

L: I'm due in Kabul in a few hours. I'll be back here in 48. I'm assuming we're green and go. Notify me otherwise.

M: He's wearing body armor in the HQ. And that should tell you everything you need to know about the CIA.

Scene 2

(Six months later Lynch comes to the prison to meet Hannibal for the new mission.)

H: Well, hello, Mr. Lynch. Long time. You look very relaxed, Lynch. A lot of cameras in here.

L: Yeah, there are. Yeah, well, they seem to be having some technical issues at the moment. May not show up till playback.

Hannibal. Can I call you Hannibal? I can't call you Colonel anymore. Six months. Been waiting for you to **bust out (3)** of here and round up the rest of the Backstreet Boys and lead me to those plates. Six months and not a peep. Everybody thought you and your team were working with Pike.

H: Mmm. Everybody except you. Pike murdered Morrison. Set me and my boys up and stole those plates. And I know where he is.

L: Nobody knows where he is. It's a single image of him. Taken about a month ago, somewhere in Europe. We think it's a grab from a CCTV camera.

H: Frankfurt, Germany.

L: How did you get that in here?

H: Time, Lynch. Give me a minute and I'm good. If I've got an hour, I'm great. You give me six months, I'm unbeatable. I know Pike. Who's the Arab?

L: We don't know. We think

he's the deep, dark, hidden hand in this whole thing. Maybe a broker, maybe a buyer.

H: Lynch, we have common enemies and you have limited choices. My team is still your best shot at getting those plates back.

L: I wouldn't be so sure.

H: Then why did you make the long drive out here? You and your boys at Langley want your own private printing press. That's about as deep as your patriotism goes.

L: So, what would you need from me?

H: I swore to my team that I would clear our names. You of all people must understand the value of a name. Now, listen. I want full reinstatement and clean records for myself and my team.

L: I can't get you out of here. Not legally, at least.

Scene 3

(At the Frankfurt airport Face meets Charissa, his ex-girlfriend and the military lieutenant who is in charge of the investigation.)

Charissa (C): What the ... are you doing?

Face (F): Trying to save you! Charissa. Come on, you know we're innocent. You know this.

C: You're lying. Like you lied in Baghdad.

F: I did not know. I knew nothing about the plates. At that

... at that time.

C: You are completely full of shit!

F: Will you stop selling yourself on that and avoiding the fact that you lied to me! You're the one that misled me.

C: When?

F: Come on. You wanna go **there (4)**?

C: Yeah, let's go there.

F: You heard I was a player and you wanted to play. And then I got serious and you freaked!

C: Oh, I freaked? I did not freak!

F: Yes, you did. You panicked and you ran. Charissa, come on. I'm a federal fugitive. You know exactly how wanted I am. You think I came to Frankfurt to hash out some old heartbreak? No! I'm here because we didn't do this. I'm here because we were set up. I'm here because, in the end, the truth is worth the risk. And I believe in you, even if you don't believe in me.

Vocabulary

- 1. thug:** a common criminal, often for hire
- 2. wiggle room:** flexibility, as of options or interpretation
- 3. bust out:** break out
- 4. go there:** here it means to talk about something

(By Wang Yu)